

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE           | Licensing Urgent Business Sub-Committee                               |
| DATE                | 22 December 2016  |
| DIRECTOR            | Richard Ellis   |
| TITLE OF REPORT     | Date of Implementation for Knowledge Testing for Private Hire Drivers |
| REPORT NUMBER       | <b>CG/16/158</b>  |
| CHECKLIST COMPLETED | Yes   |

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek an amendment to the date, agreed at the Licensing Committee on 13 December 2016, from which the requirement for knowledge testing for private hire drivers should be applied to applications for the grant and renewal of private hire driver licences.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

1. Suspend Standing Orders in order to amend the implementation date of knowledge testing for private hire drivers agreed at item 4.2 of the Licensing Committee meeting of 13 December 2016.
2. Approve an amended implementation date for the application of the knowledge test for private hire car drivers to any new application lodged on or after 2 January 2017 and to any renewal applications falling due on or after 2 January 2017, and received after 1 January 2017 where the applicant has not already passed the knowledge test.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report simply seeks to amend the date of application of an agreed policy and accordingly will have no financial implications.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

This report simply seeks to amend the date of application of an agreed policy and accordingly will have no other implications.

#### 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting on 13 December 2016 the Committee agreed to extend the administration of a street knowledge test to private hire drivers effective from 1 November 2016, the date from which the Committee had legal authority to do so. Unfortunately it has now been established that the policy cannot be applied retrospectively.

It was also subsequently noted that a number of applications had been received after 1 November but prior to the date of the decision and that those applicants would therefore be subject to a requirement that was not in place at the time of their application. In the interests of fairness it is proposed to implement the policy from 2 January 2017 in order to avoid such a situation.

This would also give officers sufficient time to write to those licence holders who would be due to renew their licences in January and provide advance notice of the additional requirement.

#### 6. IMPACT

##### **Improving Customer Experience –**

Delaying the implementation will provide the opportunity to publicise the new policy and should ensure that all applicants will be fully aware of the requirement prior to submitting any application.

##### **Corporate -**

No impact.

##### **Public –**

This report will be of interest to members of the public who make use of licensed private hire cars. An EHRIA has been completed however it has concluded the proposal will generally have a neutral impact on the protected characteristic groups and does not have the potential to impact on any person's human rights.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The purpose of this report is to ensure the application of the policy is done in a reasonable and fair manner and is intended to reduce the risk of complaints or allegations of unreasonableness.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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