

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE</b>	5 July 2022
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Street Knowledge Test
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/22/147
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Fraser Bell
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Sandy Munro
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	17.3

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek authority from the committee to seek public opinion on options for amending the Street Knowledge Test by way of a public consultation exercise.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Instruct the Chief Officer – Governance to hold a public consultation on the options for amending the Street Knowledge Test as detailed in Appendix 1; and
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer – Governance to report back to the Committee on 6 September 2022 with the results of the consultation exercise.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Following a request from the Taxi & Private Hire Consultation Group, the Committee at its meeting on 26 October 2021 instructed officers to investigate possible means of amending the Street Knowledge Test to ensure it remained fit for purpose.
- 3.2 Following a peer review of other local authorities, four possible options have been identified as detailed at Appendix 1. With the exception of options 1 and 2, which are mutually exclusive, any or all of the options can be incorporated into the process if desired.
- 3.3 The purpose of the test is to maintain standards amongst taxi and private hire drivers. It is therefore important to ensure that any changes keep the test as fit for purpose but do not dilute public safety in any way.

- 3.4 The first potential change is to recognise the difference between taxi drivers and private hire drivers. As private hire journeys require to be pre-booked the driver will have a degree of forewarning as to the journey. This could be recognised with a slightly more general test per option 1, or by abolishing the test for private hire drivers altogether per option 2. It should be recognised however that the period of advance warning may be very short, particularly with app-based booking systems, and so a basic knowledge of the city may be useful.
- 3.5 The second change relates to resitting the test. The current test has four sections. An applicant must pass all four sections. If an applicant fails any section, he or she must resit the entire test. Option 3 proposes that where an applicant fails only 1 section, he or she is given one opportunity to resit only that section. If the section is failed again then the whole test must be undertaken at the next sitting.
- 3.6 The final option does not relate directly to the test but to the maintenance of standards within the fleet. That would involve an SQA or equivalent qualification on taxi/private hire driving as is required by several other local authorities in addition to the test itself.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report.

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications from this report.

#### 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	N/A			
Compliance	N/A			
Operational	N/A			
Financial	N/A			
Reputational	N/A			

<b>Environment / Climate</b>	N/A			
------------------------------	-----	--	--	--

## 8. OUTCOMES

<u><b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</b></u>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Full impact assessment not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required
<b>Other</b>	N/A

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 Consultation Options

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	Sandy Munro
<b>Title</b>	Solicitor
<b>Email Address</b>	AleMunro@aberdeencity.gov.uk