

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

10 January 2019

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

Taxi and Private Hire Drivers' Knowledge Test

Report by Head of Legal & Governance Services (Report No. 19/1)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the introduction of a knowledge test for Private Hire Car Drivers' and Taxi Car Drivers'

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Council, as Licensing Authority, regulates civic licensing under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
- 1.2 Within the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 provision is made for a Licensing Authority to require applicants for a Taxi/Private Hire Driver Licence to take a test of knowledge of the geographical area to which the licence relates. Such tests relate to the layout of roads within the area and other matters relating to the operation of a taxi/private hire as the authority may consider desirable.
- 1.3 A report was submitted and approved by the Licensing Committee on 26 October 2017 (Item 4, Report 17/349). This resulted in the standard conditions for taxi and private hire car drivers being updated. There is a condition relating to a knowledge test within the standard conditions. This states that the knowledge test will be required to be undertaken at renewal and application stages; however, it is anticipated that it will be introduced for new applications only at this time. This will allow the Licensing Manager to monitor staff time and resources required to undertake the knowledge test as the Licensing Team will administer the test.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the taxi/private hire driver's knowledge test would comprise of 60 questions in six parts:
 - Part 1 – would consist of questions relating to Public Buildings and Local Landmarks,
 - Part 2 – Street Names,
 - Part 3 – Routes,
 - Part 4 – Knowledge of the Highway Code,
 - Part 5 – questions relating to the conditions to the licence,
 - Part 6 – Arithmetical and general questions.

- 1.5 The test would take the form of multiple-choice questions/answers for 4 parts and written answers for 2 parts of the test.
- 1.6 The proposed pass rate for the test would be 85% (applicants must answer 51 questions correctly to pass).
- 1.7 It is proposed that the applicant be given three attempts to pass the test. If an applicant does not pass after three attempts, the application would be deemed as being voluntarily withdrawn and no refund will be given. This restriction is required to ensure continued compliance with the time limit within which applications must be determined (6 months).
- 1.8 If the applicant fails to take the test after three appointments have been sent out, the application will also be deemed as voluntarily withdrawn and no refund will be given.
- 1.9 Most authorities that have a knowledge test charge an additional fee to drivers to cover the administrative costs of the test. Generally fees range from £10.00 to £30.00.
- 1.10 Perth and Kinross Council's current fee for a new Taxi Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence is £110.00 for a 1 year licence and £165.00 for a 3 year licence. It is proposed that the Committee agree to increase the fees by £30.00 making a 1 year licence £140.00 and a 3 year licence £195.00 to cover the administration costs of the test for new applications.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Committee approve the commencement of the Taxi/Private Hire Car Drivers' Knowledge Test for all new applications received from 11 January 2019 onwards.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the Committee approve the increase in fee by £30.00 for new Taxi/Private Hire Drivers' applications received from 11 January 2019.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 It is recommended that the committee agrees that the Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver knowledge test be introduced from 11 January 2019.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the fee for new applications received from 11 January 2019 for a Taxi/Private Hire Driver is increased by £30.00.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Debra Merchant	Licensing Manager	dmerchant@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Lisa Simpson	Head of Legal and Governance Services	14 December 2018

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Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	None
Corporate Plan	None
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	None
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement
Not applicable.

Corporate Plan
Not applicable.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The cost for administering the 'Knowledge Test' will be met by an increase in the fee for the grant of a Taxi/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Workforce

- 2.2 None

- 2.3 Asset Management (land, property, IT)

Not applicable

3. Assessments

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

A full EFIA has determined that the proposal is relevant for the purposes of EFIA, with the following outcome being decided:

1. No major change is required. The Policy, Practice, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option is robust and can continue without amendment.

3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Not applicable

3.3 Sustainability

Not applicable

3.4 Legal and Governance

The proposals comply with the provisions of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

3.5 Risk

Not applicable

4. Consultation

4.1 Internal

None

4.2 External

Engagement has taken place in the form of a Working Group from the Taxi Trade in relation to the Knowledge Test.

5. Communication

Communications Plan

5.1 Not applicable

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

7. APPENDICES

None