

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

TAXIS COMMITTEE

23RD AUGUST 2005

DRIVER AWARENESS TRAINING

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the present position in respect of the proposed training course for private hire and hackney carriage drivers – “Transporting Passengers by Hackney Carriage and Private Hire” provided by Sandwell College.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 13th January 2005 the Committee approved the Driver Training for the Conveying of the Disabled course proposed by the Licensing Section.
- 2.2 The Committee also agreed that they would consider whether any driver, who undertakes the Disability Awareness module of the “Transporting Passengers by Hackney Carriage and Private Hire” course proposed by Sandwell College, should be exempt from the Dudley training course.
- 2.3 The Licensing Enforcement Officers met with Mr Mike Garbett of Sandwell College on 2nd August, 2005 to discuss the proposed course and in particular the “Disability Awareness” module. Mr Garbett informed the Enforcement Officers that the course was not underway and had little, if any, prospect of being implemented.
- 2.4 Mr Garbett explained that the Black Country Learning Skills Council were not prepared to fund individuals who were self-employed and acknowledged that almost all hackney carriage and private hire drivers had that status. He also went on to say that in his opinion the full costs to individual drivers would be prohibitive and that, in any event, the mechanisms in place for funding college courses could not be adapted to accommodate this method of funding.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 That the Committee note the information contained in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 contained in this report.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to the Council.

5.0 LAW

5.1 The licensing of private hire is governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and licensing and hackney carriage is governed by The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 This report complies with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the Sub-Committee note the information contained in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.



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DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

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