

6 TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A KNOWLEDGE TEST AS PART OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR DUAL DRIVERS LICENCES UNDER THE TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

REPORT BY: Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards

Purpose

1. To consider adopting knowledge test for new dual drivers licences and defer the introduction of the knowledge test for all current drivers until a financial assessment is made.

Legislation

2. Sections 51 & 59 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provide that a district council shall not grant a licence to drive a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence.
3. Section 57 of the 1976 Act provides that a district council may require any applicant for a licence to drive either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle to supply such information as they may reasonably consider necessary to enable them to determine whether the licence be granted and whether conditions should be attached to any such licence.
4. Under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 a district Council shall not grant a license to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a "fit and proper" person to hold a drivers licence.

Background

5. The Regulatory Committee on 19 July agreed the knowledge test but deferred its introduction until the licensing Manager could provide information relating to the financial implications to the local authority for the introduction of the test to all current drivers.
6. Due to the licensing section processing Licensing Act 2003 applications and the taxi office having many personal and telephone enquiries over the last month the service has been unable to asses the costs.

Recommendation

- To allow the introduction of the knowledge test for new drivers and review costs for existing drivers in September/October.