

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

DECISION

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2018
title: PROPOSED CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCES (NVQ QUALIFICATION)
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: MAIR HILL

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To determine the annual fees for hackney carriage, private hire, scrap metal and sex establishment licences.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives - } The Council aims to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs, consideration of this issue will enhance this.
- Corporate Priorities - }
- Other Considerations - }

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In September 2015, Committee approved the introduction of a requirement (with effect from 1 April 2016) that all applicants for a private hire or hackney carriage driver's licence must pass the NVQ in Road Passenger vehicle driving (Taxi and Private Hire) ("**NVQ**") and must complete it within 1 year of the licence being granted.

2 ISSUES

2.1 The specification for the NVQ can be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/nvq-and-competence-based-qualifications/transport-and-logistics/road-passenger-vehicle-driving-taxi-and-private-hire-l2.html>

2.2 More recently applicants have complained that it is becoming increasingly difficult to enrol on the course and that the only college running the course locally has a course fee of £600 plus VAT. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that this might be becoming prohibitive to applicants.

2.3 Some Councils nationally require applicants to complete a BTEC qualification in Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver. The specification for this qualification can be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-specialist-and-professional-qualifications/transport-and-logistics/btec-specialist-introduction-to-role-of-professional-taxi-and-private-hire-driver-l2.html>

2.4 The price for the BTEC qualification at the college which offers it locally is £250 plus VAT. Committee will note from the specification that the BTEC is a lesser qualification and the NVQ leads on from it. Committee may consider however that the BTEC provides sufficient training to drivers.

2.5 Committee is therefore asked to consider whether the requirement to pass the NVQ should be removed and be replaced with a requirement to pass the BTEC. Should Committee decide to change the approved training course from NVQ to BTEC it is proposed that this should apply to any applicant or licence holder who has not yet enrolled on the NVQ course.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources –N/A.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – N/A
- Equality and Diversity – N/A

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Approve the removal of the requirement for applicants for a private hire or hackney carriage driver's licence pass the Level 2 NVQ in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (Taxi and Private Hire) within 12 months of the licence being granted.
- 5.2 Approve the introduction of a requirement that all applicants for a private hire or hackney carriage driver's licence must pass the BTEC - Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver within 12 months of the licence being granted. This will apply to any applicant or licence holder not yet enrolled on an NVQ course.

MAIR HILL
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216.

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/30 January 2018