
Report to Emergency Decision Making Forum

Date of Meeting: 3 April 2020

Subject: Licensing of taxi and private hire car drivers

Report by: Lindsay Thomson

1.0 Issue

- 1.1. There are a number of considerations which will require to be addressed in the next few weeks in terms of Clackmannanshire Council's approach to civic licencing. Some of these will be informed by the Coronavirus Scotland bill which is due to pass through the Sottish Parliament today (1 April 2020).
- 1.2. This paper considers one particular issue which is the fitness to drive requirement within the standard licence conditions. The Regulatory Committee approved the current set of conditions in May 2018. Condition 3 currently provides that a driver of a taxi or private hire must obtain a Clackmannanshire Council pro –forma medical certificate in the following circumstances:-
 - 1.2.1. All new applicants aged 55 or over or for renewals for those aged 55 or over
 - 1.2.2. Every six years thereafter until the age of 65
 - 1.2.3. Every year for those drivers aged over 65
- 1.3. The Clackmannanshire representative of the Scottish Taxi Federation (this organisation does not cover private hire drivers) has indicated recently that availability of GPs who can complete the pro-forma is limited and this is increasingly the case as the pressure on local health service increases during the pandemic.

2.0 Options and Impacts

2.1. Option 1

To dis-apply standard condition 3 for all applications made between 4 April 2020 and 1 October 2020 and to require all applicants who would have been subject to condition 3 during this period of time to submit a medical certificate certifying fitness to drive to the Council by Friday 18 December 2020.

Impact

There will be a temporary reduction in the assurance that the public can take in relation to taxi and private hire car drivers aged over 55 in Clackmannanshire. There is a risk that a taxi driver will not be fit to drive. This risk is mitigated significantly by the DVLA process which also covers medical fitness to drive.

Removing the requirement for a certificate for a short period of time will reduce the pressure on GPs to provide this certification at a time when the GP service will be facing additional demands and a reduction in resource.

There is a cost pressure associated with the certificate for drivers who all pay for the certificate. At this time of diminishing financial returns for taxi drivers and private hire drivers while there is a reduction in public travel, this measure will reduce the cost pressure of continuing to hold a licence.

Option 2

Maintain standard condition 3

Impact

It is likely that there will be an increasing difficulty in obtaining these certificates as the pressure on NHS resource increases. This could reduce the number of taxi or private hire drivers in Clackmannanshire as they will not be able to comply with the requirements of the standard conditions.

This condition is intended to ensure, at a regular point in time, that taxi and private hire drivers are fit to drive.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the EDMF agree option 1

4.0 Implementation

Task	Officer	Date
Update website with information	LT	ASAP
Communicate with taxi federation representative	LT	ASAP
Monitor impact of change	LT	Ongoing

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes x
- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes x

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No x

6.0 Legality

- 6.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes X

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lindsay Thomson		2084