

ITEM NO:13

DECISION-MAKER:	Licensing General (sub) Committee		
SUBJECT:	B tech Qualification for Hackney and Private Hire Drivers		
DATE OF DECISION:	4 th July 2007		
REPORT OF:	Solicitor to the Council		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

SUMMARY

For Members to consider the adoption, for new drivers only, of the Btech Qualification for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That members approve in principal the adoption of the B Tech qualification for new applicants and delegate the authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to amend existing application requirements to include relevant conditions after consultation with relevant bodies.
- (ii) That members approve in principal the adoption of the B Tech qualification for new applicants and receive a further report to approve relevant conditions after consultation with relevant bodies.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The demand for taxi and private hire services are increasing and the number of minor complaints about drivers and the way in which they deliver those services are also increasing. The aim of the B Tech qualification is to ensure that drivers are trained in what can only be described as best practice, have a reasonable knowledge of relevant legislation and be able to communicate with their customers in a reasonable and competent manner.
2. From 6th December 2006 taxi and private hire providers are not allowed to discriminate against customers on grounds of disability. The B Tech qualification currently has modules that cover the following areas: Customer Service, Equal Opportunities, Disability Awareness, Taxi and Private Hire Safety, Carriage of Luggage and Parcels, Topography and Route Planning and Taxi and Private Hire Regulation.

CONSULTATION

3. To be carried out if approved by Members with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade bodies.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. None identified at present

DETAIL

5. As Reasons for report recommendations.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

6. None.

Revenue

7. None.

Property

8. None

Other

10. There are no financial implications for the Council save for time undertaking consultation. There will be a cost for applicants to undertake the necessary training at any educational establishment which provides the course.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The Council has the authority to impose conditions on drivers of private hire vehicles under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
There is no statutory power to impose conditions on Hackney Carriage Drivers however there is right to set policy and procedure for applications.

Other Legal Implications:

12. None identified

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None
2.	

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
2.	

Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.		
2.		

Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

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FORWARD PLAN No: N/A

KEY DECISION? NO

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WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

All