

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 6 OCTOBER 2020

Report of the Head of Shared Regulatory Services

**REPLACEMENT OF BTEC QUALIFICATION WITH; SQA LEVEL 2
CERTIFICATE IN INTRODUCTION TO THE ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL
TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER**

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting of 3 November 2009 the Committee first agreed to introduce a requirement that all applicants for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence, who have not previously held a licence in the past twelve months, be required to produce evidence of having successfully completed a BTEC qualification in 'Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire'.
- 1.2 On 8 February 2011 the Public Protection Committee agreed to replace the BTEC qualification with a new BTEC accredited qualification in the 'Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi or Private Hire Driver'.

2. The Report

- 2.1 The current provider of the BTEC qualification; Pearson have advised that they are withdrawing the qualification.

The last test date will be 31 January 2021 and the last certification date will be 28 February 2021.

- 2.2 As a result of the withdrawal of the BTEC qualification the Licensing Authority has been researching alternative qualifications.
- 2.3 The qualification found to most suit the needs of the Licensing Authority is provided by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and is a Level 2 Certificate in 'Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver'.

SQA describe the qualification as providing *“learners with an understanding of current legislation and good customer service. It develops and enhances the range of skills and techniques required to deliver high-quality services to the travelling public”*.

2.4 To obtain the qualification, learners would have to achieve the following modules:

- Workplace Health and Safety
- Safety Transport Passengers
- Professional Customer Service
- Maintain the Safety of the Licensed Vehicle
- Mobility and Wheelchair Assistance
- Plan Routes and Fares
- Transport Luggage and Parcels
- Safely Transport School Age Children
- The Licensing Regulations

2.5 This SQA qualification will not only continue to contain key elements necessary for training applicants for the grant of a licence but has the added benefit of including safeguarding as part of the ‘Safely Transport School Age Children Module’. This includes:

- Know the types of illegal activity that perpetrators use for personal satisfaction or monetary gain:
 - sexual gratification
 - use of drug mules
- Identify the common feature of perpetrator behaviour and grooming
- Describe the impact of exploitation on a school age child
- Understand the importance of Codes of Conduct and values that underpin the rights of school age children
- Describe how contact or referrals can be made if school age child requires support for contact or non-contact abuse

2.6 Although this qualification has been available since 2011, the content was refreshed in 2018. This encompassed changes to the Equality Act, uplifts to fines and penalties, cloud-based dispatch systems and an increased emphasis around the safeguarding of school age children.

The full qualification structure can be found in **Appendix A**.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Licensing Authority has consulted with known local training providers along with Cardiff Hackney Carriage Association on the proposal to adopt the SQA Level 2 Certificate in 'Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver'.
- 3.2 Three responses were received in relation to the consultation all of which were in favour of the proposed SQA qualification.

The full consultation responses can be found in ***Appendix B***.

4. Achievability

- 4.1 This report contains no equality personnel or property implications.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council should only grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence if it is satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. The Council's requirement for applicants to pass a qualification is one element of ensuring that they are fit and proper persons.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the for the purposes of applying for the grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence, the production of the SQA Level 2 Certificate in 'Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver' be accepted as satisfactory evidence of the applicant having undertaken a suitable training course.

8. Reasons for Recommendation

- 8.1 To ensure that applicants are fit and proper persons to hold a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Dave Holland
HEAD OF SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES

1 September 2020

This report has been prepared in accordance with procedures approved by Corporate Managers.