

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 21 JULY 2011

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TAXI DRIVERS' NVQs.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

To inform members about uptake of training by taxi drivers to take a level 2 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Road Passenger Driving.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION – that the report be received**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report presents information about the numbers of taxi drivers taking up an NVQ level 2 training opportunity, and the number of drivers successfully passing the qualification, and;
- 1.2 The facilities and support offered by the Licensing Service to the training organisation and candidates.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 Government targets for increasing adult education mean that any adult with qualifications below NVQ level 2 is entitled to Government funding for adult education, to bring their education up to NVQ level 2. A number of training organisations are offering the NVQ level 2 in Road Passenger Driving to taxi drivers and bus drivers, at no cost to the licensing authority or to their employer.
- 2.2 The NVQ requires a commitment by each candidate of 30 hours contact time with a tutor. Candidates undertake an initial literacy and numeracy assessment, and are offered additional help with this, if needed, to bring their skills up to a level where they will be able to undertake the NVQ coursework and exam.
- 2.3 Where a proportion of taxi drivers undertake the NVQ, this is expected to lead to a general increase in standards and

professionalism in the licensed trade, and increased confidence by candidates in their life skills and business skills. There is therefore an advantage to the Licensing Authority, as a higher proportion of licensed drivers will achieve confidence that they have enough skills to successfully run their own business.

- 2.4 East Herts Council provides a meeting facility free of charge to the training organisation, and assists with mail shots to canvass interest in taking the qualification, and facilitates an awards session for successful candidates to receive their certificates.
- 2.5 The first tranche of 14 candidates took the course provided by ABA Training Ltd, over 10 weeks, starting in February. Award of the certificates to successful candidates is planned to take place on 21 July, in the East Herts Council Chamber, immediately prior to this meeting.
- 2.6 Fifteen candidates commenced the course, of which 14 completed all stages and the exam, and all 14 have successfully achieved award of the certificate.
- 2.7 In addition, the Licensing Service has been active in helping larger companies to identify training organisations to provide the NVQ to taxi company employees, at their workplace.
- 2.8 A further NVQ training course, also run by ABA Training Ltd, is planned to take place at East Herts Council Offices this summer, and a further 17 candidates have attended the initial sign up sessions.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor M Alexander – Executive Member for  
Community Safety and Environment

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds – Head of Community Safety and  
Licensing – Extn 1498

Report Author: Paul Newman – Interim Licensing Manager

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate)</i> :	<b>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities</b> <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i>
Consultation:	This report is for information only consultation has taken place.
Legal:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Financial:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Human Resource:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Risk Management:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer