

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS:

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i>	Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy
Consultation:	<i>Informal consultation has taken place with East Herts licensed taxi trade since November 2016 regarding the content of the test, application criteria and training needs. Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary and CVS for Broxbourne and East Herts were consulted regarding the content of the proposed training and any support they may have been able to provide.</i>
Legal:	<i>Applicants can appeal against the refusal to grant or revocation of a licence or any condition attached to that licence.</i>
Financial:	<i>Currently the authority runs its own knowledge tests and charges applicants a fee covering cost recovery. This income will be lost but the fee was originally set to only recover costs and those costs will no longer be incurred. In the last 12 months the income from knowledge tests is estimated to be £5300 and this will cease from January 2017. The contractor providing the training has offered to develop the associated handbook etc at a cost of £50.00 per hour but the decision has been made to keep this in house. It is estimated that it will take 11 hours of officer time to create this locally specific paperwork. This work will be produced by a Senior officer. There will be a need for a separate account code to be set up so that the money paid to East Herts for the tests can be accurately allocated to the provider's invoices.</i>
Human Resource:	<i>None identified.</i>
Risk Management:	<i>None identified.</i>

Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:

By improving the knowledge and standard of the licensed taxi trade we can improve the health and wellbeing of individuals in East Herts. It is particularly relevant for those sections of the community with disabilities as drivers will have a better understanding of people's needs, which may in turn encourage these individuals to travel confidently enhancing the quality of their lives. The incidents of people being carried in an unsafe manner, being overcharged or even being refused a journey should diminish.