
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	4th MARCH 2021	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NIGEL MARSTON nigel.marston@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Council amend the wording of the Private Hire Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026 as per the table contained at paragraph 3.6 of this report

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide Members with the necessary information to be able to consider the recommendation contained in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 In July 2020, the Department of Transport issued the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Standards (“the Standards”). The Standards include recommendations on exercising the taxi and private hire licensing functions to protect children and vulnerable adults in addition to all users of the trade. The Standards require that the recommendations be implemented by each Licensing Authority unless there is a compelling local reason not to do so. The Standards require all licensing authorities to publish their consideration of the recommendations detailed in the Standards.
- 3.2 This authority considered the standards and adopted a new Private Hire Licensing Policy. This report seeks to amend the section of that policy that refers to Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training.
- 3.3 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which our policy refers to is rightly a concern for local authorities, however it is just one aspect of a wider concept known as “safeguarding”. Safeguarding encompasses issues including county lines, sexual and physical abuse, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, radicalisation etc. It is therefore proposed that references within the policy to CSE should be removed and replaced with “Safeguarding”.

3.4 The current policy requires that the training be provided by officers of the council and free of charge to drivers. This is not a sustainable model and it is proposed that the Council adopt a more modern approach to delivering this training.

3.5 It is therefore proposed that the Council select an external provider to provide this training.

3.6 Proposed Changes to Policy Wording

Current Paragraph & Wording	Proposed
Current section heading at page 27 is Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training	This is about so much more than just child sexual exploitation. Suggest amending heading to "Safeguarding" which is more encompassing
3.48 The Council requires all drivers to undertake child sexual exploitation awareness training. The training will be arranged by the Council. No fee will be payable. If a driver has undertaken an equivalent training course, they will not need to complete the training if a certificate has been provided to the Council.	3.48 The Council requires all drivers to undertake safeguarding training. The training will be provided by the Council's approved training partner. The cost for the training to be paid directly by the applicant.
3.49 Existing drivers will have until 1 st November 2019 to complete the child sexual exploitation training. If a driver has not completed the training by this date, their private hire driver's licence will be suspended until the training has been completed.	Remove this paragraph completely, it is historic and no longer required.
3.50 For all new applicants, the training must be completed prior to the grant of a private hire driver's licence.	For all new applicants, the training must be completed prior to making an application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence. A copy of the certificate confirming the training has been completed must be supplied with the application.
3.51 Every licence holder will have to complete refresher training every 3 years in line with the renewal of their private hire driver's licence. An application to renew the private hire driver's licence will not be determined until the refresher training has been completed.	Every licence holder will have to complete refresher training every 3 years in line with the renewal of their private hire driver's licence. An application to renew the private hire driver's licence will not be determined until the refresher training has been completed. A copy of the certificate confirming that the training has been completed must be submitted with the renewal application

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council. It will release officers from providing this training and free them up to undertake an increased number of inspections, which is a target within the service plan.

4.2 There are financial implications to private hire drivers, although these are offset by the fact that the training is a legitimate business expense and can therefore be claimed as a tax expense.

5. Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

5.1 None

Legal Implications

5.2 The training will ensure that the Council is meeting the requirements of the Secretary of States Statutory Guidance

Corporate Plan Implications

5.3 These proposals will continue to demonstrate to members of the public that the Council takes the private hire licensing seriously in accordance with legislation and case law which contributes to the value of taking pride in our place and striving for excellence in all we do.

Risk Impact

5.4 None

6. Community Impact

Consultation

6.1 None required.

Equality and Diversity Impact

6.2 None

Social Value Impact

6.3 The proposals will protect all residents in South Derbyshire from subsidising the private hire licensing regime.

Environmental Sustainability

6.4 None

6. Background Papers

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
South Derbyshire District Council Private Hire Licensing Policy 2021-2026