

**Taxis and Private Hire Cars and Drivers
Extended Term Licences****Report by Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to the introduction of licences for extended terms.

2 Background**2.1** Currently, licences for Taxis and Private Hire Cars and Drivers are issued for one year.

The trade generally favour extending the term to three years; and support the introduction of the extension of medical examinations for drivers from age 45 years and every five years thereafter and then annually after the age of 65 years. Currently drivers who suffer from a medical condition that potentially impairs their ability to drive are also referred to the Council's independent medical adviser for examination.

At the meeting of the Hire Car Liaison Group on 13 March 2014, the Trade side expressed a preference for the cost of such examinations being met by the individual drivers concerned.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

3.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

There are implications arising directly from this report.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Hire Car Associations were consulted.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

4 Summary

The introduction of licences for three year terms for drivers is supported by the Trade.

The equitability of all licence-holders meeting their own costs may lead to challenge. It is considered though that this may leave the Council open to challenge on the basis that these charges are not truly equitable and perhaps ought to be shared across the board.

Fees require to be fixed in consultation with the Short Term Working Group on Fees and Charges.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the introduction of three year licences for drivers be approved, subject to further examination of the notion that the individual licence-holders meet the cost of their examinations; and fixing of the Fees by the Council, following consultation with the Short Term Working Group on Fees and Charges.

Date 21 March 2014

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Background Papers: note of meeting of Hire Car Liaison Group

Declaration Box

Instructions: *This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

Title of Report:

Meeting Presented to:

Author of Report:

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☐ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.*
- ☐ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.