

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE



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PORTFOLIO	Community & Environment
REPORT AUTHOR	Karen Davies
TEL NO	01282 425011
EMAIL	Kdavies@burnley.gov.uk

Review of Covid-related Taxi Driver Application Requirements

PURPOSE

1. To update Members on the relaxation of taxi driver application requirements to accommodate covid-secure measures.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Licensing Committee agree:
 - to permanently introduce the option of Group 2 Medicals (with access to GP records) in the limited circumstances where the applicant's own GP is not offering the service,
 - to continue with the temporary Online Knowledge Tests (as prescribed by the Council) and Online safeguarding training (as prescribed by the Council) for a further 6 month period, before a further review, or if circumstances permit, resuming full safeguarding requirements.

And in each case a 12 month licence will be issued.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To review the arrangements as per Minute 12 Licensing Committee 12th November 2020.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The interim arrangements are now established, although it is only recently that the online knowledge tests and safeguarding training have become available.
5. Group 2 medical examinations were put into effect in the limited situations outlined, and are working well, with approximately 8 drivers using this option. Medical concerns have been raised appropriately, and one application resulted in refusal. It is becoming increasingly apparent that GPs will not necessarily restart private medical services, and so there is a need to identify alternative provision. The recommendation therefore seeks approval to continue with this option permanently, but only where the applicant's GP does not offer the service.
6. Online knowledge tests and safeguarding training have only just been implemented, and

have worked well for the limited numbers that have gone through the process, less than 10 so far. We are still in a position where there is uncertainty about office reopening and occupation levels. Given recent concerns about variants, the recommendation is that we continue for a further 6 months, and at that point review further, or if circumstances permit resume face to face safeguarding arrangements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

7. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8. The recommendation would change application criteria as indicated.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

9. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Karen Davies

ALSO:

Joanne Swift