
TITLE: DRIVER STANDARDS AGENCY (DSA) TESTS

COMMITTEE: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2016

AUTHOR: SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER

[R110]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To approve amendments to the taxi licensing guide regarding driver application requirements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That Members consider the information in this report and resolve to:
- (i) replace all references to the Driver Standards Agency (DSA) test in the taxi guide “blue book” with Blue Lamp Trust with immediate effect.

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 It was reported to Members in October that the Driver Standards Agency (DSA) test was no longer going to be offered by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) from 31st December 2016.
- 3.2 The DSA test was introduced to raise the standard of driving in the licensed trade. It was a nationally recognised course, and was used by a large number of Councils.
- 3.3 As a result of the DVSA no longer offering the DSA course it was necessary to consider another solution in the short term to ensure applicants are not inconvenienced, but also to ensure that standards are maintained. Fortunately, a number of private companies and charities have started to offer an alternative course, and having considered availability, cost, and course content Officers have registered with the charity Blue Lamp Trust.
- 3.4 Blue Lamp Trust instructors are mainly ex or current emergency service drivers who hold advanced driving DSA accreditation. The price is £87 which is £27 more expensive than the DSA test; however, applicants are able to meet the instructors at a time and location that suits them rather than having to travel to set test centres. Blue Lamp Trust also provide pass certificates directly to the licensing email inbox, which improves efficiency and fits in with our attempts to become paper free.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Until such time as Officers are able to implement a Council run equivalent DSA test, it is considered that the Blue Lamp Trust is the best option available to ensure continuity for applicants, and to ensure our high standards are maintained.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This change will not impact on those in the trade, and will enable easier access to test dates than were previously available.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recommendation will not impact on existing members of the trade, and will only have a minor financial impact on new applicants as the increase in test fee is very small.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed showing there is no adverse impact on the community if Members follow the Officer recommendations.

Background Documents

Location

Contact Officer

None

Room SF208
The Grange,
Ely

Stewart Broome
Senior Licensing Officer
(01353) 616477