

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 October 2022
Subject:	Update on Mandatory Safeguarding and Equality Awareness Training Requirement
Report of:	Licensing Operations and Development Team Leader
Head of Service/Director:	Head of Community Services
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

The report provides an update to the Committee regarding the mandatory policy requirement that all licensed drivers attend safeguarding and equality awareness training.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the progress made with regard to all licensed drivers undertaking safeguarding and equality awareness training and to note the extension of the deadline for existing drivers to 30 June 2023.

Financial Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications:

Tewkesbury Borough Council adopted the Gloucestershire Common Standards in October 2021 as part of the County's response to the publication of the Department for Transport Statutory Standards which were published in July 2020.

Part of the new standards are that all licensed drivers will attend a mandatory safeguarding and equality awareness training session every three years.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Resource Implications:

None.

Safeguarding Implications:

There is a potential risk that drivers that have been licensed since 2018 may not be able to identify signs of exploitation or vulnerability of their customers.

Impact on the Customer:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides an update regarding the mandatory requirement to attend a safeguarding and equality awareness training session as part of driver licence conditions.

2.0 MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING REQUIREMENT

2.1 The Licensing Committee resolved to adopt the Gloucestershire Common Standards at its meeting on 14 October 2021.

2.2 Tewkesbury Borough Council's Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy states:

Applicants for a hackney carriage or private hire driving licence must undertake mandatory safeguarding and equality awareness training prior to the issue of their licence. A common training approach and provision has been adopted by licensing authorities that have adopted these common standards.

Existing licensees will be required to undertake refreshers training every three years as a condition of the grant of their licence.

2.3 The safeguarding and equality awareness training is provided by Cheltenham Borough Council at its offices on a regular basis.

2.4 All new applicants must complete this training prior to licensing – all new drivers licensed since October 2021 when these requirements came into effect have undergone the necessary training.

3.0 PROGRESS IN RELATION TO TRAINING EXISTING DRIVERS

3.1 Of 655 licensed drivers, there are still 510 that have not completed this requirement; however, drivers that were licensed with Tewkesbury in 2018 undertook the initial round of safeguarding training that was delivered across the Gloucestershire licensing authorities. This means approximately 60% of our licensed drivers have already undertaken safeguarding training.

3.2 There is no date specified in policy that the current drivers must complete this training by; however, all drivers in the other Gloucestershire Districts have completed training. Tewkesbury Borough Council's Licensing team committed to a deadline of December 2022 and this is also specified within the Licensing Service Review overseen by the Programme Board.

3.3 Due to resource implications within Cheltenham Borough Council's Licensing team, it is unrealistic that all of Tewkesbury Borough Council's licensed drivers will be able to fulfil this requirement.

3.4 A discussion was held between the Tewkesbury Borough Council's Licensing Operations and Development Team Leader and the Cheltenham Borough Council Licensing Team Leader where it was deemed that the deadline should be extended to 30 June 2023.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Training to be delivered at Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices

There are no trained Officers within the Tewkesbury Licensing Team that are able to deliver the training. The sessions require two Officers for a total of two hours for each session.

4.2 Cheltenham Borough Council Officers to attend Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices to deliver training

Due to capacity within the Licensing team at Cheltenham Borough Council this would be unfeasible with travelling time included.

4.3 Source an alternative training provider

The content of the course has been tailored to Gloucestershire Common Standards and is the same content as the other drivers in Gloucestershire have received.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Licensing Operations and Development Team Leader has consulted with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee, Head of Community Services and Environmental Health Manager.

5.2 The licensed trade was written to on 14 September 2022 to inform them of the revised date and penalty for not completing the course.

6.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

6.1 None

7.0 MONITORING

7.1 Reminder will be sent to drivers on a monthly basis until June 2023. Any driver who fails to undertake the training by the deadline of 30 June 2023 will have their licence suspended.

8.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

8.1 [Tewkesbury Borough Council plan — Tewkesbury Borough Council](#)

8.2 [Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy](#)

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: None