

REPORT TO: Licensing Sub-Committee

MEETING DATE: 8 September 2016

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: New arrangements for the Medical Examination of Taxi Drivers

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of the new arrangements which are now in place in respect of the provision of services to the Council for the medical examinations required by taxi drivers.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the terms of the new arrangements which are now in place.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 For many years, the Council obtained a service for the medical examination of taxi drivers from OHSAS, part of the NHS. Consideration has been given over some time to procuring a new service for these services. Matters were brought to a head earlier this year when OHSAS announced that new NHS regulations meant that they would no longer be able to provide these services to the Council.
- 3.2 The Council undertook a competitive tendering exercise in respect of a new service, on the basis of Group 2 Medical standards, in April/May 2016. The successful candidate was appointed on 3 June 2016.
- 3.3 Driver medical services are therefore now being provided by City Health Clinic Edinburgh, which is based at Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh. Examinations will take place at CHC's facilities. CHC will arrange the appointments process and follow up work, and this will result in less administrative work in respect of these examinations falling on the Licensing office. Much of the appointment and notification processing is carried out by email or text in the first instance to maximise convenience for the applicants, and speed up the process as matters are not then reliant on the delivery and receipt of letters.
- 3.4 The cost to the Council of these services has been set at £66 per examination. The Council are obliged to meet the cost of initial medical examinations, which costs are to be recovered from the licensing fees

charged. Should an applicant require further tests or follow-up procedures in order for a medical report to be provided, then the costs of such further procedures are now the responsibility of the applicants themselves. In the past such costs fell on the Council. There will be a £50 fee charged by CHC in respect of any missed appointments, which fee again will be the responsibility of the applicants.

- 3.5 The medical reports to be provided by CHC are on the basis of Group 2 medical standards, as previously adopted by the Council. On that basis, all drivers aged 45 and over will require to have a medical on a five-yearly cycle, and all drivers aged 60 and over will require to have a medical on an annual basis.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - Fee of £66 per medical examination payable by the Council
- 6.2 Personnel - Reduced burden on Licensing Office staff of the administrative processing of medical examination set up and processing.
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

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