

REPORT TO	DATE
Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Urgent Decision Under Standing Order 35 of the Council's Constitution: To allow Medical Certificates to be issued by General Practitioners other than the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers' own GP.	Sue Jones	David Whelan Shared Services Lead-Legal Deputy Monitoring Officer

Is this report a key decision? (i.e. more than £100,000 or a significant impact on more than 2 Borough wards)	No
Is this report confidential?	No

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' policy makes it a requirement for a licensed driver to have a medical examination by their own General Practitioner to certify their fitness to drive. The purpose of the report is to respond to a situation whereby currently licensed drivers are having difficulty obtaining a Medical Certificate from their own General Practitioner.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Policy be temporarily amended to allow Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers to attend a medical examination with a General Practitioner (other than their own General Practitioner) for the purposes of issuing them with a Medical Certificate (provided the doctor in question is given access to their full medical history)
3. That Officers are provided with delegated authority to continue with such a practice until GP's surgeries are open to allow for such medical examinations to take place.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

4. Licensed drivers are finding it difficult to obtain the medical certificates which are a requirement to allow grant/renewal of a licence. Allowing drivers the ability to provide medicals from other doctors or providers with registered locum doctors, on the condition the full medical history is available to the examining practitioner when

the medical assessment is conducted, appears to be the only solution in the current circumstances.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

5. The report relates to the following corporate outcomes:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Leisure	
Place, Homes and Environment	X

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	X
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## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

6. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Licensing Officers became aware that Hackney Carriage drivers & Private Hire drivers have been having trouble accessing their own doctor surgeries for group 2 medicals. Licensing officers contacted multiple surgeries, which advised they were not conducting medicals and had no plans to do so anytime soon.
7. 'The Council's policy' stipulates:

***Medical certificates completed by the driver's own GP are required on first application and then every five years until the driver reaches the age of 65 and thereafter every year.***

In order to ensure that drivers are being examined to check their medical fitness, it is proposed that individuals are allowed to be examined by other GP's than their own, subject to the GP having access to the drivers' full medical history. As it is unknown when GP's surgeries will be fully opened to patients, it is proposed that this decision continues to take effect until the situation changes and officers' are given authority to revert back to the existing policy requirements.

## PROPOSALS (e.g. rationale, detail, finance, procurement)

8. The Standing Order seeks to allow Hackney carriage and private hire drivers to attend a medical examination with other GP's who would have access to their full medical history.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9. No alternative options at this juncture.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

10. None

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

11. None

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPACT**

12. None

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

13. No financial implications.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

14. The policy is restricted and limits a medical examination to be only undertaken by the individual's own GP. These are unprecedented times which have given rise to a large number of GP surgeries not being fully open to patients. One solution to this problem is that drivers are allowed to be examined by other GP's subject to that GP having access to their full medical history. Ordinarily, we would proceed through a full consultation process before making any changes to policy. In an effort to ensure that drivers are still medically fit, and ultimately safeguarding the safety of the travelling public, the proposed temporary solution is a sensible one. This is only a temporary change in procedure whilst COVID restrictions continue.

## **APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

Appendix 1 – Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Justin Abbotts – Licensing Officer	01772 625460	9.11.20

# Approval of Urgent Decision

I confirm that I consider this decision is one of genuine urgency in accordance with Standing Order 35 of the Council's constitution:



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Councillor David Howarth  
Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Dated: 12/11/20

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of the report, I approve the recommendations contained in the report in accordance with the Council's constitution in consultation with the Leader of the Council:



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Gary Hall  
Chief Executive

Dated: 13/11/20



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Councillor Paul Foster  
Leader of the Council

Dated: 13/11/20