



RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION (OFFICER)

1. Decision Reference No.	CEX371
2. Name/Title of Officer	Pranali Parikh, Director for Growth and Regeneration
3. Email address of Officer	pparikh@melton.gov.uk
4. Title / Subject Matter:	Updating Taxi Medicals
5. Type of Decision:	Public
6. Key Decision?	No
7. Decision Taken: 1. Allow taxi drivers the option to have the new, more comprehensive medical form completed face-to-face by any GMC registered Doctor who is licensed to practice medicine in the UK, providing they have had sight of a summary of the driver's medical records.	
8. Reasons for Decision: In making my decision I have considered the following: The current Melton Borough Council HC/PH Policy states ' <i>Applicant's and current drivers are to undergo medicals with their own GP. The applicant will be responsible for paying the fee for the examination to the relevant surgery and for ensuring all sections are completed in full by their GP</i> '. We require medical examinations every 3 years for drivers under 65 years and annually after that. The Covid pandemic has added extra pressures on to GP's. Wait times to get an appointment have increased with some being unwilling to complete them during the pandemic. Reports of 8+ weeks to get an appointment are not uncommon in Melton and over 3 months in other areas. Some surgeries have changed which parts of the form they will complete so insist on drivers who wear glasses having eye tests done by an optician, adding additional financial burden on drivers. The cost of completing our current 4 page taxi medical (Appendix A) at our most frequently used medical centre, Latham House, is £60 and this excludes height, weight, blood pressure and eye test which must be done elsewhere – eye tests average around £20-25. The Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Licence, Best Practice Guidance for Licensing Authorities in England (Nov 23) states:	

6.6 There is general recognition that it is appropriate for taxi and private hire vehicle drivers to have more stringent medical standards than those applicable to normal car drivers because:

- they carry members of the general public who have expectations of a safe journey;
- they are on the road for longer hours than most car drivers; and
- they may have to assist disabled passengers and handle luggage.

Licensing authorities should apply the Group 2 medical required for an entitlement to drive lorries (category C) and for buses (category D)

All initial category C and D licence applications require a medical assessment by a registered medical practitioner -recorded on the D4 form, this does not need to be the applicants GP.

Category C and D licence holders are required to make a medical declaration at each renewal of their category C or D driver's licence (every 5 years) until the age of 45 when an assessment is required againevery 5 years – although we propose to keep the medical examination for our drivers as every 3 years to keep them in line with how often they renew their licence.

Licensing authorities should seek the same information to inform their decision as required by the DVLA for category C and D licences. It is therefore suggested that the DVLA's Medical Examination Report (D4) is used as a template for licencing authorities to gather relevant information.

Our current medical form has not been reviewed for many years and does not use the D4 form as a template. A new form has been created using the D4 form as a close template (**Appendix B**)

Latham House have stated that currently they charge £90 for HGV medicals but this will be increasing to £125 (**Appendix C**). One company used by many other authorities, D4Drivers charge £55 all in and have availability within a week.

Many other local authorities have already transitioned to using external companies to complete the taxi medical forms. We would only accept forms from doctors who are registered with the GMC and licensed to practice medicine in the UK and who complete the form in a face-to-face appointment. Drivers must take with them a summary of their medical record, obtained free from the surgery they are registered with (this can take up to 40 days) but it could be less according to Latham House if they have signed up to the NHS App.

9. Authority / Legal Power:

The Constitution Chapter 2 – Part 4 – Officer Scheme of Delegation Section 12.2 (d) gives authority to the Director for Growth & Regeneration to be responsible for Regulatory Services including Licensing.

Chapter 2 – 8 – Licensing Committee Functions and procedure rules delegates authority to Determine Council Policies for the licensing of private hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers and private hire operators including standard conditions and the fixing of hackney carriage vehicle fare scales to Licensing Sub-Committee and/or the Director of Growth & Regeneration (section 1.9) subject to exceptions as detailed in that part.

10. Background Papers attached?

No

11. Alternative options available / rejected:

1. Continue only allowing medicals to be completed by drivers own registered GP. This adds extra burden's to GP surgeries, incurs more costs for drivers and the wait to get tests booked is longer so there is a risk of drivers returning forms late.

12. Implications:

Legal	Legal and Governance implications are detailed at Section 9. [Approved - Assistant Director Governance & Democracy, Monitoring Officer - 15 March 2024]
Finance	There are no direct financial implications associated with this decision. [Finance Approval – 14 March 2024]
HR	NA

13. APPROVAL/SIGN OFF (Do not complete until all implications signed off at Section 12)

Signature of Decision Maker with authority to sign :	Email approval received Pranali Parikh Director for Growth & Regeneration
Consultation with:	N/A
Date:	22 March 2024

Please send all decisions for publication to: Democratic Services at democracy@melton.gov.uk. All decisions with exempt information should be referred to MonitoringOfficer@melton.gov.uk