



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**City Wide**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
**Licensing Committee**

**2 March 2015**

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**Review of Drivers' Topographical Knowledge Test**

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**Report of the Director for Local Services and Enforcement**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Licensing Committee has asked for the existing topographical knowledge test to be reviewed. This report outlines the requirements of the existing test, what a revised test could cover and suggests how the introduction of a revised test could be implemented.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Licensing Committee is asked to:
- a) Approve the proposed revised test;
  - b) Consider whether there are any additional items to be included in the test, or whether some items need to be approved.
  - c) Approve a consultation exercise with the hackney carriage representatives and the existing private hire operators.

**3 Existing Topographical Knowledge Test**

- 3.1 All private hire and hackney carriage drivers are required to pass the topographical test before being licensed. The requirements that drivers are tested on at present is shown in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The current pass mark for the test is 66%. Drivers are given four opportunities to pass the test. If they are unsuccessful, they can reapply after 12 months. The average pass rate of those drivers who turn up to take the test is currently running at 58%.

**4 Proposed Revised Test**

- 4.1 A revised, more extensive schedule of what taxi drivers could be expected to know is shown in Appendix 2. The schedule covers the same general areas as the existing test. These are street names, important destinations, routes and licensing law and practice. Drivers will be required to know where these destinations are, the most direct routes between them and have a knowledge of their duties and responsibilities as a taxi driver.

- 4.2 There is an opportunity, as part of the review, to change the pass mark for the test. However the effect of changing the knowledge requirement and the pass mark at the same time is difficult to gauge. It is therefore suggested that an assessment is made of the pass rate after the revised schedule is introduced and any proposal to revise the pass mark is then reported back to this Committee.
- 4.3 The existing test is carried out in a manual basis, using printed question sheets and printed maps. In order to be able to accommodate and test a more extensive schedule of knowledge, it will be necessary to move to an ICT based test, where the question, question papers and other resources are held electronically and the test is taken on a computer. The software to enable this to happen has already been procured, but implementation of the test will be contingent on being able to identify suitable hardware and accommodation for participants to take the test. There will continue to be a need for an identity check and the test to be invigilated, so remote internet based tests will not be appropriate.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 It is proposed that after this Committee has agreed the new schedule consultation is held with the hackney carriage trade representatives and private hire companies to find out their views on the content and appropriateness of the test and whether there are likely to be any consequences for their businesses. The outcome of this will then be reported back to the Committee.

## **6 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial Implications**

- 6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

Colin Sharpe – Head of Finance

### **6.2 Legal Implications**

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

Hannah Price – Solicitor, For City Barrister and Head of Standards

## **7 Report Author**

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## **HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' TEST**

### **STREETS/PLACES/AREAS INCLUDED**



Leicester  
City Council

#### **STREETS**

Abbey Park Road	Gynsill Lane	St. Matthews Way
Albion Street	Halford Street	St. Nicholas Circle
Almond Road	High Street	Stoughton Drive
Asquith Boulevard	Hinckley Road	Stoughton Road
Aylestone Road	Horsefair Street	Swain Street
Barkby Road	Humberstone Drive	Tailby Avenue
Belgrave Gate	Humberstone Gate	Thurmaston Lane
Belvoir Street	Humberstone Lane	Upperton Road
Bishop Street	Jarrom Street	Uppingham Road
Blackbird Road	King Street	Victoria Park Road
Bowling Green Street	Knighton Church Road	Victoria Road East
Braunstone Gate	Knighton Lane East	Wakerley Road
Broad Avenue	Knighton Road	Walnut Street
Burleys Way	Krefeld Way	Waterloo Way
Cank Street	Lee Circle	Watermead Way
Carlton Street	London Road	Welford Road
Catherine Street	Loseby Lane	Western Boulevard
Charles Street	Manitoba Road	Wharf Street South
Chatham Street	Mansfield Street	Wyngate Drive
Cheapside	Melton Road	York Road
Checketts Road	Middleton Street	York Street
Churchgate	Millstone Lane	
Clarendon Park Road	Narborough Road	
Colchester Road	New Bond Street	
Coleman Road	New Parks Way	
Conduit Street	Northgate Street	
Craven Street	Parker Drive	
De Montfort Street	Peacock Lane	
Dover Street	Pocklingtons Walk	
Dysart Way	Portway	
East Park Road	Queen Street	
East Street	Queens Road	
Evington Road	Regent Road	
Fosse Road North	Rutland Street	
Friday Street	Saffron Lane	
Frog Island	Sanvey Gate	
Fullhurst Avenue	Saxby Street	
Gallowtree Gate	Scraptoft Lane	
Gartree Road	Shady Lane	
Gipsy Lane	Silver Street	
Glenfrith Way	Soar Lane	
Glenhills Boulevard	Southampton Street	
Granville Road	Southfields Drive	
Gravel Street	Spencefield Lane	
Groby Road	St James Street	

## **PLACES**

Abbey Park  
 Age Concern  
 Argos  
 Athena  
 Bannatynes Health Club  
 Castle Gardens  
 Central Lending Library  
 Central Post Office  
 City Cinema  
 Clock Tower  
 Crown Court  
 Curve Theatre  
 De Montfort Hall  
 De Montfort Square  
 De Montfort University  
 Fenwicks  
 General Hospital  
 Glenfield Hospital  
 Grand Hotel (Ramada Jarvis)  
 Guildhall  
 Haymarket Centre  
 Haymarket Theatre  
 Heathley Park  
 Holiday Inn Central  
 H M Prison  
 HMV  
 Humberstone Heights Golf Club  
 Jewry Wall Museum  
 King Power Stadium  
 Leicester Cricket Ground  
 Leicester Mercury Offices  
 Leicester Race Course  
 Leicester Tigers Rugby Ground  
 Leicester University  
 Life Nightclub  
 Little Theatre  
 Market Place  
 Moat Community College  
 New Walk Centre (Council Offices)  
 Newarke House Museum  
 Railway Station  
 Regent College  
 Royal Infirmary  
 Sainsburys (Belgrave)  
 Spinney Hill Park  
 St Margaret's Bus Station  
 St. Martins Square Precinct  
 Town Hall  
 Victoria Park

## **AREAS**

Anstey  
 Aylestone  
 Aylestone Park  
 Beaumont Leys  
 Belgrave  
 Birstall  
 Braunstone Town  
 Braunstone Frith  
 Clarendon Park  
 Crown Hills  
  
 Dane Hills  
 Evington  
 Eyres Monsell  
 Glenfield  
 Highfields  
 Knighton  
 Mowmacre Hill  
 Humberstone  
 New Parks  
 Newfoundpool  
 North Evington  
 Northfields  
 Rowley Fields  
 South Knighton  
 Stoneygate  
 Thurmaston  
 Thurnby Lodge  
 West End  
 Westcotes

**Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver Topographical Knowledge Test Requirements**

**STREETS**

As existing plus:

**Additional Level of Detail 1:**

Aikman Avenue	Dominion Way	Henley Road
Anstey Lane	Evington Lane	Highcross Street
Barky Road	Gleneagles Avenue	Jubilee Square
Beaumont Leys Lane	Glenfield	Loughborough Road
Belgrave Road	RoadGwendolen Road	Palmerston Way
Braunstone Lane East	Halifax Drive	Soar Valley Way

**Additional Level of  
Detail 2**

Aberdale Road  
Ambassador Road  
Armada Drive  
Ashleigh Road  
Avon road  
Barclay Street  
Barclay Street  
Bedale Drive  
Bennion Road  
Biddle Road  
Birds nest Avenue  
Border Drive  
Boston Road  
Bowhill Grove  
Broadway Road  
Broughton Road  
Burnmoor Street  
Calver Hey Road  
Cannock Street  
Waterside  
Cardinals Walk  
Carisbroke Road  
Cavendish road  
Chapel Lane  
Chesterfield Road  
Clumber Road  
Coleman Road  
Copdale Road  
Cordery Road  
Cort Crescent  
Cort Crescent  
Craighill Road  
Dakyn  
Davenport Road  
Dillon Road  
Dumbleton Avenue  
Elms Road  
Ethel Road  
Evesham Road  
Evington Drive  
Evington Valley Road  
Fairfax Road  
Featherstone Road  
Fosse Raod Central  
Fosse Road South

Gallards Hill  
Gipsy Lane  
Glebe Road  
Gooding Avenue  
Gooding Avenue  
Goodwood Road  
Grace Road  
Grasmere Street  
Greenhill Road  
Gwendolen Road  
Hallam Crescent  
Hamilton Lane  
Hastings Road  
Heacham Drive  
Headland Road  
Heather Road  
Helmsley Road  
Henley Road  
Herongate Road  
Highway road  
Hillsborough Road  
Hilltop Road  
Holmfield Avenue  
Imperial Avenue  
Ireton Road  
Keightley Road  
Kestrel Lane  
Keyham Lane  
Kitchener Road  
Knighton Church Road  
Knighton Road  
Laburnham road  
Lambourne Road  
Landsdowne Road  
Letchfield Road  
Letchworth Road  
Leycroft Road  
Liberty Road  
Lindfield Road  
Lothair Road  
Lutterworth Road  
Maidstone Road  
Main Street -  
Humberstone  
Manor Road  
Marydene Drive  
Meadwell Road  
Melbourne Road

Mere Road  
Milligan Road  
Monmouth Drive  
Nedham Street  
Netherhall Road  
New Romney Crescent  
Nursery Road  
Old Church Street  
Parkstone Road  
Pasley Road  
Percy Road  
Peters Drive  
Pool Road  
Prestwold Road  
Putney Road  
Ratcliffe Road  
Ravenhurst Road  
Sandhills Avenue  
Scudamore Road  
Shackerdale Road  
Shanklin Drive  
Southernhey Road  
St Ives Road  
St Peters Road  
St Saviours Road  
Stanley Road  
Stokes Drive  
Stonesby Avenue  
Stoughton Drive  
Tennis Court Drive  
Tetuan Road  
The Broadway  
The Fairway  
Thurcaston Road  
Thurlington Road  
Thurncourt Road  
Trenant Road  
University Road  
Westcotes Drive  
Westcotes Drive  
Westfield Road  
Whitehall Road  
Whitteney Drive  
Wigston Lane  
Windley Road  
Winstanley Drive  
Woodshaw Rise  
Wycombe Road

**AREAS**

As existing

**PLACES**

As existing plus

Western Park  
Y Theatre  
New Walk Museum  
Charles Street Bus Station  
National Space Science Centre  
Phoenix Cinema  
King Richard III Visitors Centre  
O2 Academy  
Belgrave Hall and Gardens  
Mecca Bingo  
Wygston's House Museum  
The Magazine  
University of Leicester Botanic Gardens  
Abbey Pumping Station  
Leicester Cathedral  
Fosse Park  
Bradgate Park  
City Hall

**Hotels**

Campanile Hotel  
Castle Park Hotel  
City Rooms  
College Court  
Days Inn, Leicester Forest East Services  
Holiday Inn Express, Raw Dykes Road  
Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle  
Hotel Maiyango  
Ibis, Leicester Forest East Services  
Ibis, St Georges Way  
Leicester Hilton, Junction 21  
Marriot Hotel, Grove Park  
Mercure Grand Hotel, Granby Street  
Premier Inn, Braunstone Lane East  
Premier, Inn London Road  
Ramada Encore, Charles Street  
Regency  
Sky Plaza Hotel  
Stoneycroft Hotel

**TOWNS & VILLLAGES**

Thurcaston  
Loughborough  
Quorn  
Mountsorrel  
Rothley  
Cropston  
Markfield  
Anstey  
Grobby  
Ratby  
Desford  
Peckleton  
Leicester Forest East  
Braunstone Town  
Enderby  
Thurlaston  
Huncote  
Narborough  
Glen Parva  
Blaby  
Croft  
Countesthorpe  
Cosby  
Wigston  
Oadby  
Great Glen  
Fleckney  
Market Harborough  
Thurnby  
Coalville  
Scraptoft  
Barkby  
Birstall  
Syston  
Melton  
Hinckley  
Lutterworth  
Barwell  
Earl Shilton

**ROUTES**

The shortest route in normal road conditions between any of the places or towns and villages in this schedule



## **LICENSING LAW & PRACTICE**

The following areas:

- The need for driver, vehicle and operator licences from the same licensing authority
- The difference between hackneys and PHVs
  - Flimpering
  - Use of ranks
  - Fares (Including use of meters)
- Keeping records
- Implications of operating outside city boundary
- Bus lanes
- Assistance dogs and formal medical exemption
- Accessibility
- Equality
- Protecting children and vulnerable adults and the need to report safeguarding concerns
- When a fare can be refused
- Drivers' hours
- Lost property
- Protecting themselves
  - CCTV
  - Not carrying weapons
  - Not locking passengers in vehicle
  - Not asking for fares up front or payment in kind
- Declaring convictions
- Keeping vehicle in good condition
  - 6 monthly checks
  - Door signs and plates
  - Declaring accident damage / temp change of vehicle
- Compliance and monitoring
  - Powers of police and licensing authority officers
- Customer care and promoting the city