

## **COUNCIL 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**Licensing & Regulatory Committee 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

### **8 CHANGE TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY - ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods submitted a written report seeking consideration of the change to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, English Language Competency. The Licensing Authority recognised that to offer a reasonable standard of service and safety to the customer a basic knowledge of spoken English Language was required for all Taxi and Private Hire drivers licenced by Calderdale Council. This approach had been adopted by neighbouring Authorities as an essential requirement. In January 2017 it was resolved by the Committee that the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Entry Level 3 be adopted as part of all new driver applications. The current policy relating to applications for Taxi and Private Hire driver licences did not allow those applicants with an English taught Level 1 or above qualification to satisfy the test for the agreed standard of English language. Any changes to existing policy required Committee and Council approval.

Members discussed issues around fake certificates and the importance of License holders to have a grasp of the English language. Members were assured there is no reason ESOL certificates cannot be used by applicants where there are delays in verifying certificates particularly for those qualifications granted outside the UK.

**\*RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that Calderdale Council continues to request an ESOL Entry Level 3 English test for all Taxi and Private Hire driver new license applications as part of a consistent approach across West Yorkshire authorities but also to accept an English taught qualification of Level 1 or above.**