
Report To:	General Purposes Board	Date:	8 October 2014
Report By:	Head of Legal Services	Report No:	LP/051/14
Contact Officer:	James Douglas Legal Services	Contact No:	01475 712107
Subject:	Wheelchair safety training for multi-access vehicle taxi drivers and Disclosure Scotland screening for new taxi drivers		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to consider a request by Councillor Rebecchi.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Councillor Rebecchi has requested that the General Purposes Board consider implementing two proposals:

- (1) that the Board consider implementing, as a condition of licence, the requirement that taxi drivers of multi-access vehicles undertake wheelchair safety training from an organisation providing such training.
- (2) that the Board consider implementing the requirement for taxi drivers to have a "Disclosure Scotland" screening carried out when applying for the new grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Board consider the requests from Councillor Rebecchi.

**James Douglas
Legal Services**

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for Inverclyde Council, but there will be implications for applicants in respect of Disclosure Scotland screening checks.

Legal

- 4.2 If the Board's decision is to consider this matter further, any future report shall detail any legal implications of adopting the proposals.

Human Resources

- 4.3 There are no Human Resources implications.

Equalities

- 4.4 There are no equalities implications.

Repopulation

- 4.5 There are no repopulation implications.

Background Papers

- 4.6 Correspondence from Councillor Rebecchi to Head of Legal and Property Services.

Dear Mr Malone

Further to our conversation regarding Multi Purpose Vehicle Drivers there is a company called Mitre which puts drivers through a test to ensure that they can handle disabled people in wheelchairs to make sure that they are properly secured etc. This company is used by Inverclyde Voluntary Services for their drivers driving the minibuses and I have gone through this test with them and can assure you that it is a worthwhile exercise and is for the safety of the passengers. I know that there has been an accident involving a wheelchair on one of the MPVs and the chair wasn't properly secured and I believe that there is a pending case regarding it.

I believe that all taxi drivers in Inverclyde should have a disclosure Scotland Badge because if they have a school contract then the drivers have to have a Disclosure Badge and yet if they have picked a young person up any other time or if a parent phones for their child to be picked up from school then that particular driver does not need a Disclosure Badge, surely this is wrong. Under the present climate surely we as a council should make sure that every possible avenue has been covered with regards to safety.

Could this be added to the next agenda of General Purpose Board?

Yours
Councillor Rebecchi