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**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)**

**To the Licensing and Regulatory Panel**

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009**

**Subject: INFORMATION REPORT – RESULTS OF ENGLISH COMPREHENSION TESTING UNDERTAKEN BY THOMAS DANBY COLLEGE**

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

All

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

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**Executive Summary**

Members have previously approved the introduction of English Comprehension testing prior to the grant of a Private Hire / Hackney Carriage driver licence and in other certain circumstances.

This report sets out the assessment statistics from December 2007.

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To keep Members informed of the assessment results that Thomas Danby College undertake on behalf of the Council.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Licensing and Regulatory Panel previously approved the introduction of English Comprehension testing prior to the grant of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence and in certain other cases.
- 2.2 Testing has been taking place in line with the Licensing and Regulatory Panels approval.

## **3.0 MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1 There appears to consistent thread in terms of failure rates which justifies not only the introduction of the testing but also retention of the policy to continue with this requirement.
- 3.2 Members should be aware that on failure the applicant is offered training options which will assist them to improve their language skills and ultimately obtain a licence from this Council.

## **4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

None

## **5.0 LEGAL CONSULTATION AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The justification for imposing this Condition remains proportionate based on these results.
- 5.1 The précis of the results will be published in the Spring Newsletter 2009.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 It is considered that this policy remain as a Condition prior to the grant of a licence as it appears to contribute to improved levels of service and safety for the travelling public of Leeds.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 That Members note the report and make any comments they think appropriate.