DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

- **REPORT TO:** Policy and Resources Committee 27 April 2009
- **REPORT ON:** Council's Occupational Road Risk Policy
- **REPORT BY:** Council Health and Safety Co-ordinator
- **REPORT NO: 212-2009**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the Committee's approval of the Occupational Road Risk Policy.

2 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Occupational Road Risk Policy.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 These are to be met from within existing departmental budgets and are related to the budget already established for the provision of occupational health surveillance.

4 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) one third of all road traffic accidents involve a driver who was at work.
- 4.2 The Chief Executive of RoSPA recently stated that "driving is the most dangerous thing that most people do in the course of their working lives and managing work-related road risk should be embodied in an organisation's mainstream health and safety policy".
- 4.3 Each year approximately 1,000 will die on our roads as the result of a work related road traffic accident.
- 4.4 The Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Regulations 2007 highlight the need to actively manage risks that could result in a fatality.
- 4.5 The primary objective of this Policy is to reduce the risks of vehicle related injuries to employees and members of the public and to reduce incidents of damage by encouraging staff to drive more safely to suit the road conditions in properly maintained vehicles.
- 4.6 The Occupational Road Risk Policy will help to ensure that the Council meets its legal obligations when employees are driving vehicles during the course of their work.

5 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Trade Unions have been consulted regarding this Policy.
- 6.2 All Departments have been consulted during the development of this Policy.

I M M Martin Head of Personnel 17 April 2009

Personnel Department

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April 2009

Health & Safety Section

OCCUPATIONAL ROAD

RISK POLICY

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

WORK RELATED ROAD SAFETY: GUIDANCE TO LINE MANAGERS AND DRIVERS

Our Policy

As an organisation committed to achieving continuous improvement in standards of health and safety at work, Dundee City Council will seek to reduce the risks which its staff face and/or create when they are driving or are on the public road in the course of their work. It is important that all staff play their part in achieving this important objective. This guidance has been issued for the benefit of all Council managers and employees who drive during the course of their work.

General Principles

We will achieve improved road safety in Dundee City Council by aiming to:

- ensure we use the **right vehicle** for the job, that it is in a **safe condition** and is matched to the **needs and capabilities** of the driver;
- ensure we have a **safe journey plan**;
- practice safe, defensive driving techniques while on the road.

If we can **avoid or reduce road travel** we should **wherever practicable**, for example, by use of remote communications or changing to a safer transport mode.

Line Managers' Duties

It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that risks on the road within the scope of their operations are minimised so far as is reasonably practicable and that their employees are briefed about and understand their responsibilities as set out in this guidance. Line managers are responsible for ensuring that the risks involved when their colleagues drive as part of their work are properly assessed so that the need to travel by road can be minimised wherever appropriate (for example by teleworking or changing to safer modes of transport) and that appropriate steps can be taken to reduce risks and to deal with any emergencies. Managers/supervisors are to include an employees' road safety performance, when driving fleet vehicles within induction procedures and thereafter in staff appraisals. They should check up periodically to ensure that procedures for work related road safety are being followed and that employees driving fleet vehicles are adopting safe driving practices.

Where management decide to use voluntary drivers and non-employees are used then those drivers will be required to submit their driving licence, insurance details (if relevant), and MOT certificates if they are using their own vehicle. If volunteer drivers are required to use a Council vehicle then they must be required to complete and submit the relevant pre-start driver checklist prior to using the vehicle for the first time each day.

Line managers/supervisors must also take part as appropriate, in investigations following road traffic accidents to help understand immediate and underlying causes and to learn lessons which could help improve the Council's road safety performance. All line managers should lead by personal example, including the way they drive themselves, by challenging unsafe attitudes and behaviours and by encouraging employees to drive safely.

Employees' Duties as Drivers

Besides observing the requirements for safe driving set out below, all Council employees who drive as part of their work must also present their licences and any other relevant documentation for inspection as and when required and inform their line managers of any prosecutions pending or penalties imposed for road traffic offences, whether related to 'at work' driving or not. All 'at work' vehicle accidents must be reported immediately to line managers and this must be followed by provision of full information about such incidents, both for insurance purposes and so that they can be investigated where appropriate to learn any lessons which could help to improve safety.

All employees who drive during the course of work have a personal responsibility to ensure that they are fit to drive when driving a vehicle. All employees who drive during the course of work must not contravene the Highway Code. Employees who drive, also have a legal obligation to report certain eyesight defects to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). These include glaucoma, cataracts and double vision. In addition all drivers are legally required to be able to read a numberplate at 20.5 meters with the use of spectacles or contact lens. If a driver cannot meet this standard and drives a vehicle then they are breaking the law. All employees who drive are under a continuing legal obligation to ensure that they have good vision, and as individuals all drivers are encouraged to self-check their own vision and undertake the number plate test. It is known that a persons eyesight does deteriorate with age therefore all employees are encouraged to conduct this test at regular intervals.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

The following guidance should be followed by line managers and by all employees who drive while at work:-

Planning Safe Journeys:

All journeys must be planned with safety in mind, allowing sufficient time to enable the employee(s) to travel at safe speeds and to comply with speed limits - taking account of reasonably foreseeable weather and road traffic conditions and allowing sufficient time for rest breaks to avoid fatigue (see below). Alternative forms of transport such as using public transport are to be considered during this planning process. Driving within the boundaries of Dundee City Council will not need any specific journey plan as the route taken will be largely for the driver to determine based upon local road conditions, but employees should normally adhere to the main roads throughout the City. Line managers must however consider alternative methods of transport for journeys out with Dundee and every encouragement should be given to using public transport where this is reasonably practicable. Workloads should be planned with road safety in mind.

Remember: JOURNEYS MUST BE PLANNED AND NOT LEFT TO CHANCE!

Fatigue:

No employee should drive while dangerously tired. They must ensure that they are not overtired at the start of journeys and that they do not drive for an excessive number of hours. Employees who are required to drive at work should get an **adequate amount of good quality sleep before starting to drive**. Rest is not a substitute for sleep! Employees requiring to drive whose sleep may have been interrupted, for example, by having to care for young children or sick or elderly relatives during the night, should report this to their line mangers and who, in turn, must reassure them that this will not lead to them being discriminated against unfairly. Line managers and drivers must ensure that all journeys out of Dundee are planned in advance so as to enable drivers to take a **break of at least 15 minutes every 2 hours when driving continuously**. When driving to locations to carry out work tasks, employees should not normally be required to drive more than **250 miles in a single day**. While recognising that, for domestic reasons, many employees may seek to return home after a day's work, line managers must make sure where possible that their colleagues do not drive when they are dangerously fatigued.

If a driver feels tired on a long journey, Council employees are advised that they must stop in a safe place as soon as practicable. They should not rely on ineffective coping strategies (winding the windows down, turning up the radio, singing songs, chewing gum). If tiredness does occur, the best short-term measure is the consumption of two cups of strong coffee followed by a ten to fifteen minute nap. This should not be used more than once in a single journey. (Sleep should not last more than twenty minutes otherwise even greater driver impairment may result.)

Remember: TIREDNESS KILLS, DON'T FIGHT SLEEP - STOP IN A SAFE PLACE AND TAKE A BREAK

Driving Competence:

In addition to the Council's commitment to reduce risk on the road by reducing the need to travel by road, having safe vehicles and through safe journey planning, the Council will take steps to encourage improvement in every employee's driving competence. Competence to drive safely must be assessed at interview and/or prior to the allocation of any new task that involves driving. Assessment should take account of accident and enforcement history (including penalty points), recognising that: possession of a driving licence of itself does not necessarily imply continuing driving competence. Driving skills can deteriorate with time; and the probability of accidents is also related to the amount and type of driving which employees are required to undertake. Employees' driving licences are to be provided for examination on an annual basis along with insurance certificates and MOT certificates for privately owned vehicles used by employees during the course of their work.

The Risk Management Section is able on request to provide departments with their accident history. Where multiple accident drivers are identified it may be that further training is required in defensive driving.

Remember: SAFE DRIVERS NEVER STOP LEARNING!

Fitness:

Any person who has to drive whilst at work must be physically and mentally fit to do so safely. Key areas include eyesight and relevant aspects of physical and mental health.

Council employees must report to their line managers any permanent or temporary health impairments that could affect their ability to drive safely. Line managers should then discuss with their colleagues any reasonable vehicle adaptations that may be required to cope with health problems, for example, adaptations to help prevention of lower back pain or other musculoskeletal disorders. Medical advice form the Council's occupational health provider should be sought in such circumstances. Any person being employed mainly as a driver (i.e. a person whose main task is to drive a vehicle) by the Council for the first time requires a health assessment prior taking up the appointment. This will include employees already working for the Council who are transferred to driving duties. (See Appendix 2)

In addition to the above, drivers of specific classes of vehicles such as Loaded Goods Vehicles (LGVs) will be subject to medical examinations periodically as determined by their licence conditions. Minibus Driver's and Fork Lift Truck driver's health and fitness requires to be assessed prior to taking up duties. The driver's eyesight needs to be examined every 5 years with records being retained. Drivers must be capable of reading a number plate from 20.5 meters. All minibus drivers over the age of 45 years must receive a health assessment every 5 years, up to the age of 65, then yearly thereafter. (See Appendix 2)

Remember: IF YOU ARE UNWELL, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE!

Alcohol and Other Substances:

No Council employee shall undertake any form of driving if they are unfit to do so through the consumption alcohol or drugs. Contravention of this requirement will be regarded as gross misconduct. Those with alcohol and drug problems will be treated sympathetically and in confidence if they come forward for treatment. See the Council's Substance Misuse Policy. Where appropriate, medical opinion should be sought to determine fitness to drive when staff are taking **drugs for therapeutic purposes**, whether obtained via a doctor's prescription or otherwise. Smoking is also prohibited at all times whilst within a Council vehicle. (See the Council's Smoking Policy)

Remember: ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND DRIVING DO NOT MIX!

Mobile Phones:

While they may be required to carry a mobile phone for work purposes and to be able to summon help in emergencies while travelling, **no Council employee shall make or receive a call on a mobile phone in a vehicle** unless it is parked in a safe place with the engine switched off. No manager shall require an employee to receive a call on a mobile phone whilst driving. Drivers of vehicles equipped with 2-way radios are advised to make sure that their vehicle has been safely parked, before initiating or receiving a radio call. The use of hands free phones are permitted however they are still a distraction to driving and as such drivers are advised to only use such devices if road and traffic conditions allow. The driver's responsibility is to keep their eyes and mind on the task of driving the vehicle.

Remember: NO MOBILE WHEN MOBILE!

Vehicle Safety and Security:

Any vehicles used in the course of Council business must be fit-for purpose (for example, carrying loads safely or travelling off-road or in adverse conditions) and be **properly maintained**. Drivers using their own vehicles for Council business are responsible for ensuring that their vehicles are serviced and maintained in a roadworthy condition. Checks of vehicle records, such as MOT certificates, driver's licences and insurance documents are regularly carried out. Employees must also minimise the risk of vehicle crime by selecting safe parking areas and not leaving valuables within view in the vehicle.

Departments using fleet or Council owned vehicles are to adopt a pre-start check of the vehicle that is to be completed by the driver before starting their journey. (A sample of a pre-start driver checklist is included in Appendix 1 - note this is a basic checklist and for specialist vehicles with tailgates, lifting mechanisms, etc, then a more detailed checklist must be developed and introduced by Departments using the attached appendix as a starting point). It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that any pre-start checks are properly administered and are undertaken before the vehicle is used for the first time each day. Any defects identified must be notified to management **prior to a vehicle leaving the depot** and a decision made by management as to whether the vehicle can be used or not. Drivers are also responsible for logging and reporting any defects on a separate form that may develop during the working day. This will give mechanics and fleet managers the opportunity to examine and take the necessary precautions to prevent the condition of the vehicle from deteriorating further where safety may be compromised.

Remember: THE RIGHT VEHICLE FOR THE JOB AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED. THE VEHICLE YOU ARE DRIVING MUST BE IN A ROAD-WORTHY CONDITION AT ALL TIMES!

Seatbelts:

All drivers and anyone in a vehicle must wear a seatbelt, unless they posses a medical certificate stating a medical reason why the individual should not wear a seatbelt. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that persons under the age of 18 years are wearing a seatbelt in the vehicle being driven. Adult passengers aged 18 years or above are however responsible for ensuring that their own seatbelt is worn for the duration of the journey. The driver of a vehicle is also responsible for passengers being transported that are not capable of wearing a seatbelt without the assistance. In these situations an employee is often required to act as an escort to ensure that the requirement to wear seatbelts is followed.

Remember: SEAT BELTS ARE THERE TO HELP PROTECT THE DRIVER AND PASSENGER FROM SERIOUS INJURY

Emergencies:

In the event of an accident or breakdown, if it is possible and safe to do so, all Council employees should follow the Department's emergency procedures that have been determined. It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that they brief their colleagues on what to do in the event of an accident or emergency. The emergency procedures will include ensuring that:

- no additional persons health and safety is put at risk
- summoning the emergency services if appropriate
- co-operating with the emergency services
- informing the line manager/supervisor that an incident has occurred

Remember: IN A BREAKDOWN SITUATION - GET YOUR VEHICLE IN TO AS SAFE A PLACE AS POSSIBLE AND USE THE HAZARD WARNING LIGHTS

Weather Conditions:

Drivers of vehicles on Council business need to take account of the prevailing weather conditions and make their own personal judgement whether it is safe to continue with the journey. This policy gives the driver the right to curtail, or shorten their road journey if they consider it is unsafe to proceed. Severe Weather warnings are issued periodically by the Emergency Planning Officer and managers will need to advise drivers accordingly.

Remember: ADVERSE WEATHER CAN INCREASE THE RISK OF ACCIDENT, ADJUST YOUR SPEED ACCORDINGLY AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE VISIBLE TO OTHER ROAD USERS - USE YOUR LIGHTS IN ADVERSE WEATHER



Department :

DAILY CHECKS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DRIVER BEFORE THE COUNCIL VEHICLE LEAVES THE DEPOT

Fleet No.	Dat	e
Vehicle Reg. No.	Driv	ver's Name
Mileage Reading	Pay	/ No.

Items to Inspect	Driver's Comments	Pass / Fail
1. Condition of tyres		
2. Pressure of tyres		
3.Condition of steps into vehicle		
4. Lights and indicators		
5. Fuel		
6. Wipers & screen washer		
7. Brakes inc parking brake		
8. Mirrors		
9. Horn		
10. Reversing alarm		
11. Flashing beacons		
12. First-aid kit		
13. Bodywork		
14. Exhaust system		
15. Hydraulics		
16. Hoists		
17. Cleanliness Cab interior		
18. Cleanliness of vehicle		

Drivers Signature	
Time	

ALL DEFECTS MUST BE REPORTED WITHOUT DELAY BEFORE THE VEHICLE IS DRIVEN TO THE NOMINATED PERSON APPOINTED BY THE DEPARTMENT

GUIDANCE ON FITNESS TO DRIVE

Where there are statutory standards (eg those set by the DVLA) or established guidance on 'best practice' in assessing fitness for specific driving activities (eg Medical Standards for Lift Truck Operators) the health assessment must be undertaken with reference to these standards or guidance. This following procedures are to be followed for employees and volunteers who undertake driving duties on behalf of the Council for certain types of vehicles. However, if more exacting standard are considered necessary then OHSAS will normally comply to provide this as long as it is consistent with duties created by legislation such as the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Road Traffic Act requires that driving licence holders meet precisely defined fitness criteria for the purposes of driver licensing, as set out in the DVLA publication 'At a glance medical standards of fitness to drive'.

Fitness Criteria Agreed with the Client

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, require employers to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and of others who may be affected by their undertakings. This requires a risk assessment process leading to the development and implementation of safe working practices and procedures. As some health problems may significantly affect employees' ability to undertake occupational driving tasks safely, periodic assessments of their fitness for these tasks can form part of the risk assessment process. In the absence of agreed professional fitness criteria or published guidance (eg Medical Standards for Lift Truck Operators) the employer is responsible for identifying the criteria of fitness it requires its employees to meet.

Group 1 Fitness Criteria

Applicable to occupational drivers of:-

• Light Plant/ride-on vehicles (including lift trucks)

Frequency of assessment:

Pre-employment, or prior to taking up duties, and subsequently 5 yearly from the age of 45 years and annually if employed after the age of 65 years. Drivers of Lift Trucks should commence 5 yearly health assessments from the age of 40 to age 65 and annually thereafter. The frequency of assessment should be increased if a clinical need to do so is identified.

Group 2 Fitness Criteria

Apply to occupational drivers of:-

- Minibuses and passenger carrying vehicles (including those not requiring a PCV licence)
- Heavy Plant/LGV

Frequency of assessment:

Pre-employment, or prior to taking up duties, and subsequently every 5 yearly from the age of 45 years and annually if employed after the age of 65 years. The frequency of assessment should be increased if there is a clinical need to do so, or following accidents or long periods of sickness absence.

Minibus drivers will have to be seen by a Doctor with the DVLA form.

Group 3 Fitness Criteria

Applicable to occupational drivers of:-

- Cars and vans
- Transit vans

All drivers have a legal obligation to remain fit to drive at all times and must notify the DVLA of certain medical conditions. All employees who drive are also required to be able to read a number plate at a distance of 20.5 metres, with or without corrective appliance that they require to wear whilst driving. Employees should take advantage of the free eyesight facilities that are available in Scotland, to its inhabitants. If any driver is unfit to drive they should cease driving immediately and inform their immediate line manager or supervisor.

A manager may submit any employee who drives any vehicle for the Council to a health fitness check at anytime by making arrangements with the Council's Occupational Health Provider. This is recommended following a long absence form work, or following an road traffic accident, or similar circumstances such as a series of minor vehicle accidents regardless of the age of the driver.

Management

Management are to ensure that fitness checks are carried out in accordance with this policy. The questionnaires below are to be used in association with the Council's Occupational Health Provider and each questionnaire is to be handled in a confidential manner with completed forms being sent to the Council's Occupational Health Provider in a stamped addressed envelope issued to the employee prior to completing the questionnaire. The questionnaires are to be used for Group 1 and Group 2 drivers. The Council's Occupational Health provider may upon receipt of a questionnaire require the individual employee to be seen and examined. It is optional whether the fitness of Group 3 drivers is ever examined and is reserved for particular circumstances exist where it is considered as being beneficial for the health and safety of the driver or the organisation.



HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL FITNESS TO DRIVE

First Name		Last Name			
Address		I	D.O.B.		
			Postcode		
Organisation					
Base/Dept					
Date of Examination					
REASON FOR ASSESSI	IENT	TYPE OF VEHICLE			
New employment		LGV			
Periodic assessment		PCV			
Post absence		Non PCV minibus driver			
After accident/incident		Light van/car			
Other		Fork lift truck			
		Emergency vehicle			
		Plant			
		Other			



MEDICAL HISTORY

Please complete the following questionnaire as fully as possible.

1a)	Do you suffer, or have you ever suffered, from any of the following?	
	Epilepsy/seizures Loss of consciousness/blackouts/collapse/faints Dizzy spells/vertigo Sleep Disorders/daytime sleepiness Multiple sclerosis Parkinson's disease Cerebovascular disease/stroke Head injury Any internal bleed in the head eg subarchnoid haemorrhage Benign/malignant tumour Cerebral abscess or cerebral aneurysm Any other neurological/neurosurgical	Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No
1b)	Do you suffer, or have you ever suffered, from any of the following? Heart disease/angina/chest pain or discomfort for breathlessness on walking up hills or exerting yourself Hypertension Palpitations/irregular pulse Other circulatory disorders	YES/NO YES/NO YES/NO YES/NO
2a) b)	Do you suffer from Diabetes Mellitus If YES please give full details Insulin Dependent	YES/NO YES
	Non-Insulin Dependent	YES
3a)	Do you, or have you ever had, ANY history of psychiatric or depressive/anxiety disorder? If YES please give full details	YES/NO
4a)	How many units of alcohol do you drink on a weekly basis? (1 unit = $\frac{1}{2}$ pint lager, 1 small glass of wine or 1 x 25 ml of spirit)	
b)	Do you have or have you ever had, any history/form of any of the following? Alcohol overuse/misuse/abuse/dependency Drug addiction/use/dependency	YES/NO YES/NO
5a) b)	Are you currently taking any form of medication? (Prescription or non-prescription medication) If YES please list name, dosage, frequency and any side effects, eg drowsiness	YES/NO
1		



6)	Do you wear glasses/contact lenses for driving purposes?	YES/NO
7a)	Do you have any history of the following?	
	Eye disorders eg glaucoma, cataracts Eye surgery/eye injury Hearing disorders Kidney disorders	YES/NO YES/NO YES/NO YES/NO
8)	Do you suffer from any conditions not listed above which you fe about when performing this assessment. (If you are not sure, anyway)	el we should know you should tell us
	I certify that the answers to the above questions are correct to the I am in possession of a full driving licence with no restriction declaration made knowingly or the withholding of any information which may include dismissal by my employers.	ns. I understand that any false
	Signature	Date
	Name (in capitals)	





FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Name		Date of Birth	
Height	Weight	BMI	
BP	Pulse	Urinalysis	

VISION		Uncorrected			Corrected	
	LEFT	RIGHT	BOTH	LEFT	RIGHT	BOTH
Near						
Distance						
Colour		NORMAL / DEFECTIVE (please circle)				
Horizontal Fields		NORMAL / DEFECTIVE (please circle)				
Confrontation Test		NORMAL / DEFECTIVE (please circle)				

HEARING			SPEECH	
External Canal		Conversation at 3M	YES/NO	
Drums		Whisper test at 60 cm	YES/NO	NORMAL/IMPAIRED
Audiogram required	YES/NO	Result		

		Normal	Impaired			Normal	Impaired
NECK			•	LOWER LIM	IBS (in chair)		
flexion				HIPS			
extension				flexion (raise kn	ee and thigh)		
rotation				extension			
SHOULDER				KNEE			
flexion	(arm forward thumb up)			flexion	(foot under chair)		
abduction	(arm out to side)			extension	(straighten knee)		
lateral rotation	(hand behind back)						
medial rotation	(hand behind back)			ANKLES			
				dorsflexion	(pull foot up)		
ELBOW				plantar flexion	(push foot down)		
flexion	(bend elbow)			circumduction	(circle ankle)		
pronation} suprination	(turn palm of hand up and down)			When full range achieved ask client to hold against your resistance			
WRIST				BACK			
flexion				hands on hips - lean back			
extension				(keep neck in neutral position)			

FIT	
REFER TO OH PHYSICIAN	
Reason for Referral	
Date Manager/Supervisor Informed	Next assessment due
Signature	
Date	



Fitness to drive

Name:	DOB:
Address:	
GP:	
Organisation:	Dept:

The above named has been assessed and found to be:

- 1. Currently fit to drive the vehicle(s) required in his/her present employment.
- 2. Currently unfit to drive the vehicle(s) required in his/her present employment.
- 3. Currently fit to drive the vehicle(s) required in his/her present employment, subject to the following restrictions:

Name:			Signature:	
Date:			-	
Further assessment will be required in				months/years.

NB A change in an employee's health may affect their fitness to drive.

Please refer to Occupational Health for further advice in the event of:

- Prolonged sickness absence.
- A significant accident while driving.
- Use of prescription medication which carries warning labels regarding driving.
- Any other cause for concern regarding the employee's fitness to drive.