

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: 31 JANUARY 2017
 title: INTRODCUTION OF DBS CHECKS FOR PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: MAIR HILL

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Committee's approval of the introduction of DBS checks for Private Hire Operators.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - }
- Corporate Priorities - } Consideration of these issues will promote the Council's aim to be a well-managed Council.
- Other Considerations - }

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Committee will be aware that enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service ("**DBS**") checks are requirement for all applicants for private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences. This is part of the criteria for assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person. Any convictions disclosed to the Council by the DBS are considered in light of the Council's Convictions Policy.

2.2 The Council does not currently carry out DBS checks in relation to Private Hire Operators but it is under a similar duty not to licence persons who are not fit and proper. Whilst operators do not necessarily have as much contact with the public as a driver they do deal with customers in the office when taking bookings; hold customers personal information and have control of which drivers and vehicles attend person's homes or carry children or vulnerable adults.

3 ISSUES

3.1 It is proposed therefore that the requirement to provide an enhanced DBS check be introduced for Private Hire Operators and that it form part of the criteria of whether they are a fit and proper person to hold an Operator's licence. Any convictions disclosed would similarly be considered in light of the Council's convictions policy.

3.2 There would be an additional cost to those applying for an Operator's licence of £54 for the DBS check. This is a relatively modest increase in cost and would only need to be renewed every 3 years.

3.3 Committee is asked to approve in principle the introduction of DBS checks for private hire operators and authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consult licence holders on this proposal.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – Resources will be expended in carrying out the training and testing which will be passed on to licence holders.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – The Council’s reputation will be enhanced by ensuring the aspects of public safety are addressed.
- Equality & Diversity –No implications identified

5. **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve in principle the introduction of DBS checks for private hire operators.

5.2 Authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consult licence holders upon the proposed introduction of DBS check for Private Hire Operators.

MAIR HILL
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/31 January 2017