

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

---

meeting date: TUESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2022  
title: UPDATE ON THE TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES  
(SAFEGUARDING AND ROAD SAFETY) BILL  
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER – SOLICITOR

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the progress of a Private Member's Bill, seeking to improve the safety of taxi passengers.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives - } The Council aims to be a well-managed
- Corporate Priorities - } Council, providing efficient service based on
- Other Considerations - } identified customer needs.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2018, a Private Member's Bill was introduced to Parliament which would have required authorities to record all refusals of applications for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licences on a national register, as well as requiring authorities to cross-reference such applications against the register. Although the Bill had its second reading in the House of Commons on 2 February 2018, it did not progress further.

2.2 The Local Government Association ("LGA") had supported the introduction of the register. During the period when the Bill was stalled after its second reading, the LGA proposed a voluntary national database as an interim measure. The LGA commissioned the National Anti-Fraud Network ("NAFN") to develop and host the register. At its meeting on 10 April 2018, this Committee authorised the Council to sign up to the national database and join the National Anti-Fraud Network. This is now one of the checks conducted on receipt of applications for drivers' licences.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 A Private Members' Bill was introduced on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Peter Gibson MP, seeking to improve the safety of passengers. The problem which is addressed is that a licensing authority might revoke a driver's licence for wrongdoing, only for the driver to obtain a licence from another authority and then be able to continue to work, including, potentially, in the former licensing authority area.

3.2 The Bill aims to resolve the problem in two ways. Firstly, it would mandate authorities to record taxi licence refusals, revocations and suspensions on a national database, and authorities would be required to consult that database before determining an application for a driver's licence. This would put the current voluntary scheme on a statutory footing. Secondly, it would allow local authority enforcement teams to report instances of wrongdoing by drivers to the authority by which the

offender is licenced; that authority must then have regard to such a report and respond to it.

3.3 The Bill passed Committee stage in the House of Commons on 3 November 2021, and the remaining Commons stages for the Bill are scheduled to be debated on 21 January 2022. Committee will be updated on progress of the Bill at the meeting.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – No implication identified.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implication identified.
- Political – No implication identified.
- Reputation – No implication identified.
- Equality & Diversity – No implication identified.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

STEPHEN BARKER  
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS  
(If any)

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.

REF: SB/CMS/LICENSING/1 FEBRUARY 2022