

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2023  
 title: TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES (SAFEGUARDING AND ROAD SAFETY) ACT 2022  
 submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: STEPHEN BARKER – SOLICITOR

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the imminent introduction of a duty for local authorities to utilise the database operated by the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) providing the National Register for Revocations, Refusals and Suspensions (NR3S).

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

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

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Committee will recall that the Council had already voluntarily subscribed to the NR3 operated by NAFN, and a policy in respect of handling and disclosure of information in this respect was approved on 1 November 2022. This enables the Council to record revocations and refusals of licenses relating to hackney carriage and private hire drivers and to report such activity to the database operated by NAFN.

2.2 The Secretary of State for Transport has now written to licensing authorities announcing the designation of NAFN as the database provider under section 1(4) of the Act. In addition, what had been known as NR3 (National Register of Revocations and Refusals) under the voluntary scheme operated by NAFN has now become the NR3S (National Register of Revocations, Refusals and Suspensions) under the mandatory scheme.

2.3 It should be noted that licence suspensions are applicable in the relatively rare cases where an otherwise fit and proper person has not been able to satisfy a requirement that can be achieved, for example, by submission of a satisfactory medical certificate or DBS report, and the suspension is lifted on compliance.

2.4 A copy of the letter from the Secretary of State is attached at **Appendix 1**. Committee will note that the cost of access to the NR3S will be met by the Department for Transport, and therefore that element of the Council's access to NAFN databases will be free of charge to the Council.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 Committee will note that it is intended to commence the remaining provisions of the Act on 27 April 2023, but that this relates principally to enabling those authorities not already registered with NAFN so to do.

3.2 It appears that the Council already has the appropriate processes and procedures in place. At the meeting on 1 November 2022, Committee approved the adoption of the Council's policy in respect of requests for information, disclosure of information, and use of information as a result of an entry on NR3. This policy was prepared from a template supplied by NAFN, and officers will monitor NAFN to establish whether a fresh template is prepared to reflect the mandatory use of the database and the incorporation of registration of suspensions. An updated policy will be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee, based either on a revised template from NAFN or incorporating amendments determined by officers.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – There may be some reduction in the annual fee paid to NAFN.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Some officer time will be expended in updating the policy.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – No implications identified.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

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

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#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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