

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 30 JANUARY 2024  
title: TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE UPDATE  
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principal author: STEPHEN BARKER, SOLICITOR

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform committee of the publication of best practice guidance in relation to licensing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles, issued by the Department for Transport and the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee on 17 November 2023.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives }
  - Corporate Priorities }
  - Other Considerations }
- Consideration of this guidance and adoption of recommendations where appropriate will promote the Council's aim to be a well managed Council.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Since 2006, the Department for Transport has issued guidance on taxi and private hire licensing, which is stated to assist local authorities with responsibility for such licensing. Whilst the Department states that the guidance is updated periodically, the most recent update was in 2010. Although consultation on updated guidance took place in January 2017, the guidance has only been updated on 17 November 2023.

2.2 During the intervening period in 2020, and after consultation, the Department for Transport published statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards, setting out various requirements. A report was taken to Committee and the Council assessed its policies against the standards, updating conditions where appropriate.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 A copy of the recently issued best practice guidance can be accessed on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-best-practice-guidance>

3.2 Members will note the plethora of further links contained within the guidance, offering further and more detailed information on various aspects of taxi and private hire vehicle licensing, including no fewer than 14 links to the 2020 standards.

3.3 There is a welcome focus on accessibility and prevention of discrimination against disabled people. Other features include recommendations on improvement of the standard of driving and assessment of the approach taken by drivers, and recommendation of removal of some burdens, such as the knowledge test for private hire drivers who are expected to plan their route in advance and to use sat nav (not currently a requirement conditioned by this authority).

3.4 Officers will review the new guidance against current procedures, policies and conditions and submit a further report to Committee on actions which are recommended to conform with the new guidance.

### 4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Committee is recommended to note this report and the new guidance.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

(If any)

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