

**TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
8 OCTOBER 2015**

---

**LICENSING - CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS POLICY  
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report brings to the Committee the results of the consultation exercise agreed by the Committee on the 11 June 2015. In addition, it seeks approval of the Committee to adopt this policy when considering either new applications or existing licences for drivers and private hire operators.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 That the Committee:**

- a) **notes the results of the consultation,**
- b) **agrees the adoption and implementation of the policy document at Annex A from 9 October 2015.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The new policy reflects present best practice to improve public confidence and takes account of growing public concern regarding the involvement of taxi drivers in a number of high profile sex exploitation cases. It is important for public confidence and the economic viability of the taxi trade that a robust policy on the application of criminal convictions is in place.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Retention of the existing policy may be judged by some as failure to properly recognise the public safety concerns that could be presented by licensed drivers.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Members of the Committee received a report at the meeting on 11 June 2015 which sought approval for public consultation upon a Criminal Convictions Policy for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers and Private Hire Operators.
- 5.2 The draft Policy was placed upon the Council Consultation Portal from 9 July 2015 to 6 September 2015. In addition the document was emailed to 562 Bracknell Forest-licensed drivers and private hire operators on 10 July 2015. No responses were received to the consultation.
- 5.3 If adopted it is recommended that the document is implemented at the earliest possible date. This will ensure that, going forward, passenger safety is perceived as a priority for the Council and suppliers of taxi services.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the main body of the report.

### Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Bracknell Forest Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licence holders.

### Method of Consultation

7.2 Via Bracknell Forest Council Consultation Portal and direct email to drivers.

### Representations Received

7.3 None.

### Background Papers

Taxi and PHV Licensing – Councillors Handbook March 2015

### Contact for further information

Robert Sexton  
Head of Regulatory Services  
Tel: 01344 352580  
Email: [Robert.sexton@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.sexton@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)