

Item 7 (a) - Department for Transport Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Guidance feedback and subsequent amendments to Policy

The attached report was considered by the Licensing Committee, and the relevant minute extract is below:

Licensing Committee (24 March 2021, Minute 52)

Members considered a report which set out amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policy, following consultation.

Following queries, Members were advised that data on refusals would be retained for 25 years on the National Register of Taxi and Private Hire Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) which was commissioned by the Local Government Association. Taxi licensing was exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, therefore background information retained on NR3 would be taken into account to assess the fit and proper status of a driver.

It was clarified that operators were not required to have the enhanced DBS checks but an annual basic DBS check. Should any operators also drive, they would be required to have the enhanced DBS check. Drivers would be encouraged to sign up to the online DBS service when they were next due their three yearly DBS check meaning it would take up to three years for all drivers to be signed up to the online service.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) responses regarding implementation of changes following issue of Department for Transport's Statutory Guidance as set out in Appendix A and B, be noted; and
- b) it be recommended to Council that the changes to the Sevenoaks District Council Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy shown as set out in Appendix C, be approved.