

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 2021

NATIONAL DATABASE OF REFUSED AND REVOKED LICENCES

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the implementation and use of the national register of refused and revoked licences for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The concern amongst many licensing authorities has been the lack of ability to obtain reliable information with regard to the past licensing history of applicants for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence. There is the potential for individuals that have had a licence revoked or refused by another local authority to obtain a licence from another authority without the issuing authority ever being aware of the applicants licence history.
- 2.2 The Local Government Association have been supportive of a national register where details of refused or revoked licences can be held and used by local authorities to check new applicants against the register.
- 2.3 The LGA have commissioned the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) to develop and host the register. NAFN is a shared service, hosted by Tameside Council, which supports public authorities to tackle fraud and share intelligence. NAFN has worked with the LGA and a user group comprised of licensing officers from a number of local authorities to develop the register.
- 2.4 To access the register authorities are required to be members of NAFN, around 90 per cent of local authorities are already members and will be able to access the register at no additional cost. For non-members, membership of NAFN costs £1,050/ year. Newark & Sherwood are members of NAFN via the Revenues & Benefits Business Unit. The register is known as NR3.
- 2.5 NR3 has been commissioned by the LGA as a voluntary register. Licensing authorities will be responsible for adding basic details of drivers who have had applications for a licence either refused, revoked or suspended.
- 2.6 Members will have noted that the use of the NR3 has been promoted as part of the Department of Transport new statutory guidance for Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

3.0 Implementation

- 3.1 All current licensed Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers have been written to by the licensing authority to inform them that their details will be checked against the NR3 register to confirm that there is no record of them having being revoked or refused elsewhere and that if the circumstances arise and their licences are revoked, their details shall be uploaded on to the database.

- 3.2 New drivers have been made aware of the register and that their personal details will be checked against the NR3 register and that if any time their licence is revoked or renewal refused their details will be placed on the register.
- 3.3 The Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Driver application form and website has been amended to include information regarding the NR3. As well as the Taxi Policy which is awaiting committee approval.
- 3.4 In order to comply with data protection issues, the licensing authority has written to drivers that have revoked licences and informed them that their data will be uploaded to the NR3 register after a period of 28 days.
- 3.5 The licensing authority has written to 11 drivers who have had their licences revoked by this authority. One of these drivers made a representation regarding being included on the register and advice was sought from the Information Governance Officer and as a result it was agreed that this driver would not be included on the register.
- 3.6 The remaining 10 drivers' details were sent through to NAFN for uploading on the NR3 database.
- 3.7 NAFN were able to upload the details of 5 out of the 10 historic drivers. The reason that 5 of these details cannot be added is because the licensing authority were unable to provide driving licence numbers and date of births for these 5 drivers.

4.0 Equalities Implication

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications within the report.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the committee consider the contents of the report and identifies any issues it wishes to examine further

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Nicola Kellas on Ext 5894

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