

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014**

**DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS FOR NEW AND EXISTING  
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

**REPORT OF THE SHARED HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND REGULATION  
SERVICES**

**(Contact: RON SPURS, Tel: (01993) 861633)**

(The decision on this matter will be a resolution)

**1. PURPOSE**

To review the policy adopted on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 that only enhanced Disclosures issued directly to this Authority by the Disclosure and Barring Service be accepted for the purpose of determining applications to drive taxis and licensed private hire vehicles.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the policy adopted on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 excepting Disclosures issued by other registered bodies be revised to allow acceptance of Disclosures obtained by Cotswold District Council on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), formerly known as the Criminal Records Bureau, provides information relating to driver's criminal records. The disclosures may show spent or unspent convictions which may be relevant to consideration as to whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to be granted a licence to drive licensed vehicles.
- 3.2. At its meeting held on 3 June 2003 the Sub-Committee decided that only enhanced Disclosures issued directly to this Authority be accepted for the purpose of determining applications to drive taxis and licensed private hire vehicles.
- 3.3. The DBS recently contacted this authority and advised that, due to the low numbers of checks being carried out, the DBS was unable to continue authorising West Oxfordshire District Council to be a registered body.
- 3.4. In consultation with the DBS and Cotswold District Council a process has been agreed whereby the DBS checks for West Oxfordshire District Council drivers will be checked initially by West Oxfordshire District Council's Licensing team and then counter signed and submitted to the DBS by Cotswold District Council.

**4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

To ensure the safety of the travelling public it is imperative that the information that is being considered as part of an application is the most current and up to date. Should the Sub-Committee decide not to approve the new process with Cotswold District Council another umbrella organisation will need to be found to process DBS applications for West Oxfordshire drivers.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **6. RISKS**

None

## **7. REASONS**

The Council exercises control over Taxi and Private Hire operations in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to ensure that vehicles, operators and drivers meet the required standards in order to protect the public. The proposed arrangements accord with the Council's priorities to protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the district as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance and to be recognised as a leading council that provides efficient, value for money services.

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Shared Head of Public Protection and Regulation Services

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Date: 8 April 2014

### Background Papers:

None