

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>GUIDANCE NOTES ON THE RELEVANCE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS IN RESPECT OF APPLICANTS FOR A LICENCE TO DRIVE A HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE</b>	<b>Item 4</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Licensing Committee	

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To review the current guidance used in determining the fitness to drive of applicants for taxi and PHV licences.
<b>Recommended Action:</b>	To approve the report.
<b>List of other options considered:</b>	None
<b>Key background documentation:</b>	None

<b>Contact Officer Details</b>	
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## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 At the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 Licensing Committee Members resolved that the revised "Guidance Notes on the Relevance of Criminal Records in Respect of Applicants for a Licence to Drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle" as amended, be approved to go out for consultation with the taxi trade and other interested parties. This document has been re submitted to the West Berkshire Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Operators association for consultation and to Home to School transport. Although no written response has been received officers have spoken to the Chair and Vice – Chair of the Association and they have confirmed their acceptance of the revised guidance and the amendment presented to Members at the committee of the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005. Home to school transport are also happy to endorse the report.

### Appendices

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Appendix 1 - Guidance Notes on the Relevance of Criminal Records in Respect of Applicants to Drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle.

### Implications

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<b>Policy:</b>	There is an established policy on this subject. Acceptance of this report will enhance that policy in further ensuring that all drivers of taxis and PHV's are fit and proper persons to do so.
<b>Financial:</b>	None.
<b>Personnel:</b>	None
<b>Legal:</b>	The guidance will reflect the changes brought about by the introduction of the Criminal records Bureau and legislation generally
<b>Environmental:</b>	Licensed taxis are a valuable contribution to the provision of public transport.
<b>Equalities:</b>	The Council are required to ensure that a fair and proportionate approach is taken to all licence applications
<b>Property:</b>	None
<b>Risk Management:</b>	A written policy, widely available, will ensure that the Council's position is clear, fair and less vulnerable to challenge.
<b>Community Safety:</b>	Awareness training for drivers will ensure, as far as is practicable that the Council have considered the safety of taxi passengers through its licensing responsibilities.

### Consultation Responses

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West Berkshire Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Operators Association

<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	Taxi trade association members and independent taxi owners.
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	John Priest, Michael Trevallion
<b>Trade Union:</b>	Not appropriate for this report.