

Report to: **PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Relevant Officer: Tim Coglan, Head of Public Protection

Date of Meeting 25 May 2021

Adoption of Blackpool Council's Policy on the use of the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3)

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the proposed Policy on the use of the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers.
- 1.2 To report to the Sub-Committee on the four week consultation undertaken with taxi trade representatives regarding the adoption of the NR3 Register.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to participate in the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) initiative.
- 2.2 To recommend the proposed Policy on the use of the NR3 to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.
- 2.3 To agree to review the Policy on the use of the NR3 after 5 years.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 In February 2020 the Public Protection Sub-Committee approved a four week period of consultation with the taxi trade on a proposed Policy on the use of the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers. The consultation, initially delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic, is now complete and the results are before the Sub-Committee for their consideration.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 (1) Make the Policy subject to amendments before its approval.

(2) The Sub-Committee could determine that there is no requirement for a policy, however this would be contrary to the recommendations published in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards in July 2020.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Local Government Association commissioned the development of the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) to allow licensing authorities to record details of the refusal or revocation of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver’s licence and to allow other licensing authorities to check new applicants against that register. The purpose was to prevent people found to be not fit and proper in one area from securing a licence elsewhere through deception and non-disclosure. For the avoidance of doubt, the NR3 does not extend to vehicle or operator licensing decisions.

6.2 Authorities wishing to use the register are required to have in place a Policy indicating how the register will be used and how the data will be handled.

6.3 At its meeting on 25 February 2020 the Public Protection Sub-Committee approved a four week period of consultation with taxi trade representatives on the adoption of the NR3 register and Blackpool Council’s proposed Policy on the use of that register.

6.4 The period of consultation was initially delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic but has now taken place. Comments were invited until 12 March 2021 with the Policy available to view on the Council’s website and letters were sent to every Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver giving details about the NR3 initiative and the draft Policy.

6.5 No responses were received from the taxi trade during the consultation period.

6.6 The Public Protection Sub-Committee is invited to approve the adoption of the NR3 initiative and Blackpool Council’s proposed Policy on the use of that register and recommend them to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 3A - Proposed Policy on the use of the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3).

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The Council is already a member of National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN), therefore there will be no additional costs associated with the adoption of the NR3 Register.

8.2 The small additional costs incurred by the administration of the register can be recovered in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver's licence fee. The use of the register does not require any additional resource for the Licensing Service.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Four week consultation undertaken with the taxi trade.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.