

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: 18 June 2013
title: GP Medical Reports
submitted by: Chief Executive
principal author: Mair Hill

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Committee's opinion on the current arrangements for medical reports in respect of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage drivers.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – Consideration of the current arrangements will promote the Council's aim of being a well-managed Council.
 - Corporate Priorities - N/A
 - Other Considerations – N/A

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Currently, both the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage driver's conditions require applicants to have a medical carried out by their own doctor. This provision was put in place to ensure that the doctor carrying out the assessment would have access to all relevant information about the health of the individual.
- 2.2 This system has been in place for sometime without issue, however, recently an applicant contacted the Council stating that his own doctor had informed him that he was no longer carrying out such assessments. The applicant asked what he was to do in these circumstances and was informed that could try another GP within the same practice. No response has been received and so it may be that the situation has resolved itself for this particular applicant.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 In light of the above however, Committee is asked to consider whether the current arrangements are sufficient or whether the conditions should be extended so that an applicant could be referred to an independent practice selected by the Council in circumstances where an applicant's own doctor or indeed any other GP within that practice was unwilling to carry out the medical assessment.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
- Resources – Resources would be required to carry out a review and ultimately establish an agreement with a GP's practice to which applicant's could be referred.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – None
 - Political - None

- Reputation – reviewing the arrangements for medical assessments in light of this issue will enhance the Council's reputation as a well-managed Council.
- Equality & Diversity – None

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Committee confirm whether it is content with the current arrangements or whether it requires a review of the arrangements and a further report to be submitted to committee once such review has been completed.

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAIR HILL
SOLICITOR

BACKGROUND PAPERS

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/18 June 2013

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216