

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

20:09:2011

TITLE : DISCUSSION ITEM - USE OF BUS LANES BY PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

1. PURPOSE

To inform Members of a request, made by the private hire trade, to use bus lanes within the borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note this request and decide whether to commission a full consultation with all trade representatives and key stakeholders on this matter

3. KEY ISSUES

A request was made at the taxi forum held on 6th September for the Council to consider private hire vehicles using bus lanes in the borough of Blackburn with Darwen.

Hackney Carriage vehicles have been granted permission in principle to use the bus lanes in the borough, but Private Hire Vehicles have not.

Both types of vehicles are undertaking the same role in carrying fare paying passengers from one destination to another.

4. RATIONALE

If members are minded to commission a consultation, the public protection service would consult with the relevant agencies: Highways, bus companies the private hire and hackney carriage trade and members of the public

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable at this stage

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the consultation

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The public protection service would have to use existing staff to resource the consultation

9. CONSULTATIONS

As determined by the Licensing Committee

10 . CONTACT OFFICER

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