

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE 4th FEB 2016

TITLE : HACKNEY CARRIAGE UNMET DEMAND SURVEYS

1. PURPOSE

For members to consider commissioning a new unmet demand study.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the report and recommend a consultation to take place with the current stakeholders about the commissioning of a further unmet demand study.

3. KEY ISSUES

As members will be aware the Council currently has a policy of restricting the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences. When licence plates are restricted in this way the local authority must conduct regular unmet demand surveys to ensure the restriction is not adversely affecting the public across a range of hours. In order to provide evidence, it is necessary to commission an independent survey to assess the level of demand. Such surveys must be conducted by companies specialising in this area of work. The Department of Transport guidance states these surveys should be undertaken every 3 years.

4. RATIONALE

In February 2013 CTS were commissioned to undertake an unmet demand study. The report concluded that there was no significant unmet demand at that time.

Members decided to maintain the policy on restricting the fleet to 70 vehicles.

If the Council are minded to maintain the restriction on the fleet then a further report will need commissioning. The cost of the survey is borne by the hackney carriage trade through the licence fees.

If the Council are considering delimiting the Hackney Carriage Fleet to allow market forces determine the number, then a survey is not needed but consultation with the trade will be necessary.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Should members be minded to propose a review of the current policy on restricting hackney carriage vehicle licences, it will be necessary to consult with all current stakeholders in that process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the survey is borne by the hackney carriage trade through the licence fees.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Current unmet demand studies are necessary to support Council decisions when determining hackney carriage applications. It is generally agreed that the survey results remain valid for 3 years.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications.

9. CONSULTATIONS

If the Committee are minded to commission a further study or to deregulate then a consultation will need to take place with all stakeholders.

10 . CONTACT OFFICER

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