



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 19 DECEMBER 2007

Report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services

TAXI LICENSING SECTION - STATISTICS FOR LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES – QUARTER 3, 2007

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Licensing officers report to this Committee on a quarterly basis with performance and workload data relating to taxi licensing activities. The statistics for July to September 2007 are attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 As previously, some caution is required when considering the statistics for vehicle inspection and suspension to avoid them being viewed out of context. Although some kerbside inspections relate to vehicles selected at random, most are targeted at those vehicles which appear to fall below the council's standards (e.g. vehicles which are dirty, exhibit minor damage or defects, or have a history of poor maintenance). This 'risk assessment based' approach represents good enforcement practice and is in line with the Enforcement Concordat principles and the Council's Taxi Licensing Enforcement Protocol. The vehicles inspected do not, therefore, reflect the overall standards within the hackney carriage and private hire fleets as a whole.
- 2.3 It is widely acknowledged that the Council sets high standards for its licensed vehicles, and that this is reflected in the overall quality of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles within the city. The statistics during this quarter show a marked increase in the proportion of vehicles requiring their licence to be suspended when compared to the previous quarter. These statistics illustrate the ongoing need for vehicle owners to improve vehicle maintenance standards and ensure regular safety checks on vehicles.
- 2.4 The Chair holds regular meetings with taxi trade representatives and has made them aware of this committee's concerns about vehicle standards. The trade representatives support the Council's view and have advised their members of the need for to maintain their vehicles to a good standard. The trade have also been advised of the most common defects found on routine checks to assist them in avoiding these problems.
- 2.5 Licensing Enforcement Officers are continuing to take part in regular vehicle check exercises with the Police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). These exercises are in addition to the routine enforcement work carried out by the

Enforcement Officers. Where vehicle licences have been suspended the Council has received no formal complaints or appeals against the action taken.

- 2.6 The statistics for the number of callers at the Taxi Licensing office only relate to visitors who wish/need to speak to an officer. The office also receives callers who wish to collect application packs or licensing information which are available in the reception area; the numbers of these visitors is not recorded.

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Background papers:	None
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Taxi Licensing Performance & Workload Statistics

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None directly arising.

Legal

2. None directly arising.

Personnel

3. None directly arising.

Equalities impact

4. None directly arising.

Corporate priorities

5. This matter supports the corporate priority of **giving excellent services and value for money.**