



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## **TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**23 April 2008**

Report of the Director of Environmental Services

### **Taxi Licensing Section - Statistics For Licensing and Enforcement Activities – Quarter 1, 2008**

#### **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 January to March 2008 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 improvement in the proportion of vehicles requiring their licence to be suspended when compared to the previous quarter. However, these statistics show that some vehicle owners still need 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.

**For more information contact:**

**Background papers:**

**List of Appendices:**

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None

Appendix 1 - Implications

Appendix 2 - Taxi Licensing Performance & Workload Statistics

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. None

**Legal**

2. None

**Personnel**

3. None

**Equalities impact**

4. None

**Corporate priorities**

5. This matter comes under the Council's priority of **delivering excellent services and value for money.**