ITEM 9

**TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
19 OCTOBER 2005**

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

TAXI LICENSING ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOL

RECOMMENDATION

1.   That the report is noted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1   At its meeting in October 2004 this Committee resolved to approve the Enforcement Protocol for Taxi Licensing and requested a further report after 6 months to advise the Committee of any problems encountered following its implementation.

2.2   Since the introduction of the Protocol no problems or issues with the enforcement approach have been raised by either hackney carriage or private hire trade representatives or by individual licence holders.

2.3   The Protocol's introduction has not led to an increase in enforcement action against licence holders, or more referrals to the Licensing Sub-Committee, or more prosecutions. This is contrary to the concerns originally expressed by some hackney carriage trade representatives.

2.4   Some trade representatives have highlighted areas where they believe that enforcement action should be 'stepped up' such as tackling unlicensed vehicles and drivers. In response to this, the Taxi Licensing Section has just commenced a review of enforcement priorities. This will be the subject of a future report to this Committee.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.   None

Legal

2.   The Taxi Licensing Enforcement Protocol is based upon the principles set out in the Enforcement Concordat to which Derby City Council is committed. The Concordat identifies good enforcement practice for local authorities.

Personnel

3.   None.

Equalities impact

4.   The Protocol establishes a clear framework for enforcement actions which apply to, and can be understood by, all licence holders.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5.   The taxi licensing service contributes towards the objectives of **healthy, safe and independent communities**.