



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
26 July 2006

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

TAXI LICENSING SECTION - STATISTICS FOR LICENSING & ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES – QUARTERS 1 AND 2 2006

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will be aware that this Committee has agreed that licensing officers will report back to this Committee on a quarterly basis with performance and workload data relating to taxi licensing activities. The statistics for January to March and April to June 2006 are attached as Appendices 2 and 3.
- 2.2 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). These vehicles do not reflect the standards within the hackney carriage and private hire fleets as a whole. The figure of 39% with serious defects only applies to this 'targeted group' and not the taxi trade in general.
- 2.3 It is widely acknowledged that the Council sets high standards for its licensed vehicles, and that this is reflected in the quality of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles within the city. However, the statistics show that there is no room for complacency and both the trade and Licensing Officers must continue to work to improve vehicle standards further. Taxi trade representatives support this view and have advised their members of the need for to maintain their vehicles to a good standard.
- 2.4 Licensing Officers plan to increase monitoring of vehicle standards and are organising a series of joint exercises with the Police and the Vehicle and Operator services agency (VOSA) over the coming months.
- 2.5 The statistics for the number of callers at the Taxi Licensing office only relates 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 |

APPENDIX 1

IMPLICATIONS

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 **reducing inefficiency by improving business processes and ability to perform.**