

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	5th January 2012
Report of:	Head of Safer & Stronger Communities
Subject/Title:	Hackney carriage vehicles – quantity controls
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Rachel Bailey

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides background to the recommendation made by the Licensing Committee to the executive in relation to hackney carriage vehicle quantity controls, and invites the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider this recommendation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is requested:
 - 2.1.1 to consider the content of the Licensing Committee report appended as it relates to hackney carriage vehicle quantity controls; and
 - 2.1.2 to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities in relation to hackney carriage vehicle quantity controls.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 On 7th March 2011 the Licensing Committee considered a report relating to a review of the hackney carriage service. As part of this review consideration was given to the issue of quantity restrictions in relation to hackney carriage vehicles. Having considered the information within the report the Licensing Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet/the Cabinet Member that an unmet demand survey be commissioned in each of the three hackney carriage zones within the Borough.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health

- 6.1 The report deals with matters relating to the Council's policy on hackney carriage quantity controls.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 7.1 Please see paragraph 7.1 of the 7th March 2011 Licensing Committee report.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 Please see paragraphs 8.1.1 - 8.1.5 of the 7th March 2011 Licensing Committee report.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The legal risks are identified within paragraph 8.1 of the 7th March 2011 Licensing Committee report.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 On 7th March 2011 the Licensing Committee considered a report relating to a review of the hackney carriage service. As part of this review consideration was given to the issue of quantity restrictions in relation to hackney carriage vehicles. The background to the existing policy position, the legal issues in relation to quantity controls and the options open to the Council were identified within paragraph 10.2 of the report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A. Members of the Licensing Committee were referred to paragraphs from the Department of Transport Best Practice guidance; an extract from the guidance containing the relevant paragraphs is attached to this report as Appendix B.
- 10.2 Having considered the information within the report the Licensing Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet/the Cabinet Member that an unmet demand survey be commissioned in each of the three hackney carriage zones within the Borough. The relevant minute of the Licensing Committee meeting is attached as Appendix C to this report.
- 10.3 Members will note that the options which were open to the Licensing Committee were one (or a combination) of the following:
- (a) that a formal consultation is undertaken in relation to the removal of the existing quantity restrictions within zone 1 (Congleton zone);
 - (b) that the current position of 'de-limitation' within either zone 2 (Crewe & Nantwich) or zone 3 (Macclesfield) is maintained; and
 - (c) that an unmet demand survey is commissioned in one, two or all of the hackney carriage zones.

- 10.4 Members are requested to consider the content of the report to the Licensing Committee and the resolution made by it on 7th March 2011. Members are further requested to make recommendations on the issues raised to the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities.

11.0 Access to Information

Appendix A – Licensing Committee report (7th March 2011)

Appendix B – Extract from Department of Transport Best Practice Guidance

Appendix C – Extract from minutes of Licensing Committee (7th March 2011)

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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