

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Non-Statutory Licensing Committee 22 January 2020
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Report title	Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey 2019 - 2020	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment	
Originating service	Licensing Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Chris Howell	Licensing Manager
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Report to be/has been considered by	None	

Recommendations for decision:

The Non-Statutory Licensing Committee is recommended to:

1. Maintain the existing policy of not capping the numbers for Hackney Carriage Vehicles
2. Endorse the recommendation of the demand survey to use CCTV cameras.
3. Approve the continued rolling programme for Hackney Carriage Demand Surveys.

Recommendations for noting:

The Non-Statutory Licensing Committee is asked to:

1. Note the findings of the Hackney Carriage Demand Survey attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To appraise Councillor of the results from the recently commissioned independent Hackney Carriage Demand Survey to provide a detailed analysis of the current demand for Hackney Carriage services across the city and the ability of the existing fleet to meet that demand.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Licensing Committee on 25 March 2015 agreed to a rolling three-year program to commission independent Hackney Carriage Demand Surveys to provide a detailed analysis of the current demand for Hackney Carriage services across the city and the ability of the existing fleet to meet that demand. The last surveys finding were presented to Licensing Committee 15 June 2016.
- 2.2 This paper details the findings of the survey and proposes the purchase of additional CCTV with built in automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and improved information and signposting of Hackney Carriage Ranks within the City.

3.0 Unmet Demand Survey

- 3.1 An independent hackney carriage demand survey was commissioned from CTS Traffic and Transportation Limited, considered one of the market leaders in transport data collection. The full report and appendices are contained in Appendix 1.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The survey concludes there is no evidence of unmet demand and subsequently, no justification for capping the numbers of hackney carriage vehicle licences.
- 4.2 The report refers to the important function hackney carriage vehicles provide within the transport infrastructure, not least the 100% wheelchair accessibility of the hackney carriage fleet. It is therefore important to protect hackney carriage drivers from unfair competition and unauthorised use of ranks and the flouting of traffic regulations by private hire vehicles within the City. It is proposed to address this by significantly increasing the use of CCTV with automatic number plate recognition (ANPR).

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are financial implications arising from this report. The purchase of CCTV cameras will be undertaken in accordance with Council procurement rules. This cost will be met from the licensing, working reserve. [NC/06012020/N]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The law governing the licensing of Hackney Carriage vehicles is largely contained within The Town Police Clauses Act 1847, as amended and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 6.2 Section 16 of the Transport Act 1985 qualifies the power which District Councils have under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to refuse to grant taxi licenses in support of a policy of limiting the number of taxis in their area and provided a Council may refuse an application for a licence in order to limit the number of taxis if they are satisfied that there is no significant unmet demand for taxi services.
- 6.2 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing is a non-executive function and it is therefore the responsibility of Licensing Committee to determine the policy and procedures in respect of this matter. [SH/08012020/A]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Licensing Committee, Hackney Carriage Provision, 25 March 2015

Future Provision of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Services, 15 June 2016