

## APPENDIX 9

ITEM

## REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE &amp; PRIVATE HIRE CONDITIONS

*Working Party:*

Cllr. J. Foulkes  
Cllr. J. Adams  
Cllr. L. Davies  
Cllr. L. Edginton

The above Working Party, of Bewdley Town Councillors, met on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in The Mayor's Parlour, Bewdley, to discuss the proposals as outlined in the above document.

Some of the comments will probably appear to be quite negative but there were many questions which we think need to be answered and not fully taken into account in the document.

Local Taxi Services

The first point raised was the question of all being Hackney Carriages eventually. Does this mean they will all have to be in the style of black cabs as in London, and not private saloon cars? One point being the accessibility for disabled people; it is not easy to get someone who has limited accessibility from a wheelchair into a Hackney Carriage.

What would be the cost to the taxi firm, or private driver, of changing to a Hackney Carriage? If it was too expensive we could lose many of our existing taxis and setting goals which would be prohibitive for them, I believe the timescale is three years for change, in London it is about seven years. Can we as a public body (Town Council) make taxi services be part of an integrated transport strategy? They are after all private firms and need to make profits to keep the firm viable financially or they can withdraw their services, to the detriment of local residents or raise fares so people cannot afford to use them.

This paper was prepared for the Town Council Meeting on 8 May 2007