

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

30th OCTOBER 2009

Taxi Trade Liaison

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Director of Planning and Regulatory Services
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APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To propose that the Taxi Trade Liaison Group should be re-appointed to ensure continued consultation between the Council and the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire trade on issues of mutual interest.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 **Representation on the Liaison Group be re-appointed as per the existing arrangements, consisting of from the Council side:**

- **The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee and one other member of the Committee; and**
- **The Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services**

- 2.2 **The group should meet three times per year to discuss issues of common interest between the Council and the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire trade and report back to this Committee as necessary.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In the past, consultation with the hackney carriage / private hire trade has taken place in a variety of forums namely:

- The Taxi Trade Task Group
- Ad hoc meetings with the trade by Officers and Members.

- 3.2 In order to ensure regular and consistent contact with all aspects of the trade, it was felt that the establishment of such a group was necessary and would aid the Committee in dealing with matters relating to taxis.

- 3.3 On the 5th September 2005, the Committee decided that a Taxi Trade Liaison Group should be established, meeting three times per year. The initial appointment to the forum was Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing and one other member of the Committee and the appropriate Cabinet Member. This report is recommending that this format for representation be continued, although the precise make up is a matter for the Committee.
- 3.4 Over the past year, the Liaison Group has met, and has discussed, among other things:
- The Council's Guide for Applicants and Owners of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.
 - National Inspection Standards – a Best Practice Guide in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.
 - Smoke free England – Implications for the Taxi Trade.
- 3.5 The last meeting was on 29th January 2009 when the above items were discussed and a proposed meeting of 26th April was cancelled due to unavailability of members of the Forum.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that consultation is entered into with all stakeholders wherever possible.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct legal and policy implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Liaison with this group ensures regular and consistent contact with the taxi trade and assists the Committee when dealing with taxi licensing issues.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Director of Legal and Corporate Services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.