

**REPORT FROM: CENTRAL AND REGENERATION SERVICES
ENGINEERING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER**

TO: TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 19 JUNE 2014

Report Author: Jackie Allen
Tel. No: 661638
E-mail: jackie.allen@pendle.gov.uk

HACKNEY CARRIAGE DEMAND SURVEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the recommendations of CTS following the publication of the hackney carriage demand survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the present limit of 71 hackney carriages be retained.
- (2) That a review of the provision of hackney carriage ranks in Pendle be carried out, in consultation with Lancashire County Council, and a further report be submitted to a future meeting.
- (3) That a further report be submitted once the Secretary of State has made regulations specifying the proportion and type of wheelchair-accessible vehicles that Pendle must licence under the Equalities Act 2010.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) The survey has concluded that there is no significant unmet demand.
- (2) To ensure ranks are in the correct locations for customers and the trade and to look into providing a feeder rank in Colne as identified in the report on page 52.
- (3) To consider future new regulations for wheelchair-accessible vehicles from the Secretary of State.

BACKGROUND

1. To enable a local authority to take the view that a quantity restriction of hackney carriages can be justified the authority needs to demonstrate that there is no significant unmet demand. This issue is usually addressed by means of a survey sufficiently frequent to be

able to respond to any challenge to the satisfaction of a court. An interval of three years is commonly regarded as the maximum reasonable period between surveys.

2. A survey was previously carried out by the Council in 2010 and therefore it was agreed at a meeting of the Executive on 17 October 2013 that a further survey be carried out.
3. Following a tender process CTS Consultants were appointed to carry out the survey.

ISSUES

4. The survey was carried out between December 2013 and March 2014 with the final report being submitted in April 2014. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1. It can be also be downloaded at http://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/download/2406/hackney_carriage_demand_surveys

CONCLUSION

5. The conclusion in the report is that there is no significant unmet demand and the current level of 71 hackney carriages can be defended in court if challenged.
6. The Equality Act is already on the statute books. There is a requirement that any authority with a limit on its number of hackney carriages should ensure no new entrant is refused entry if they are offering a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV) if a given proportion of vehicles had not been achieved. At the present time, the level of WAVs required in a fixed fleet has not been determined, and there is still not a confirmed date.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The current policy is that no more than 71 hackney carriage licences be issued, to include five wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Financial: The cost of the survey has been covered by an increase in the hackney carriage licence fees for a period of three years.

Legal: The Council can defend a court challenge following the completion of the survey.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report of CTS for the services of hackney carriages.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.