



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

PROPOSED TOPIC: Review of CYC Taxi Licensing Policy				
COUNCILLOR(S) REGISTERING THE TOPIC: Cllr Ian Gillies (as Chair of Licensing & Regulatory Committee)				
SECTION 1: ABOUT THE TOPIC Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review: <i>How a review should best be undertaken given the subject</i> <i>Who needs to be involved</i> <i>What should be looked at</i> <i>By when it should be achieved; and</i> <i>Why we are doing it ?</i>				
Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached. <i>As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet 3 of the criteria below. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet 3, Scrutiny Management Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review. Please indicate which 3 criteria the review would meet and the relevant scrutiny roles:</i>				
	✓	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)	✓	✓		
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction				
In keeping with corporate priorities				
Level of Risk	✓			
Service Efficiency				
National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context				

Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do you think it should achieve?

If you have not already done so above, please indicate in response to this, how any review would be in the public or Council's interest e.g. reviewing recycling options in the city would reduce the cost to the Council for landfill

The aim of the review would be to ensure the Council has a robust Taxi Licensing Policy which will:

- stand up to legal challenge;
- be fit for purpose;
- provide the levels of taxi provision across the city to residents' demand

Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.

This information will be used to help prepare a remit for the review should Scrutiny Management Committee decide the topic meets the criteria e.g. How much recycling is presently being done and ways of increasing it

The provision and use of taxi ranks across the City

Reviewing the application form and other documentation required for a taxi license

Consideration of the pros and cons of 'de-regulation'

the Colour of Hackneys, i.e. should they all be black?,

The design and number of identification plates. (private hire have two, hackneys one), and the size of identification plates (ours are small in comparison to those of Harrogate and Leeds)

The number of hackney licenses

The availability of taxis suitable for use by the disabled

Rules around the testing of vehicles used as taxis – methods and periods

Consideration of best practice guidance from the Dept for Transport

Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.

Involving the right people throughout the process is crucial to any successful review e.g. CYC Commercial Services / other local councils who have reviewed best practice for recycling / other organisations who use recycled goods

Taxi Proprietors
CYC Licensing Unit,
CYC Highways Officers
CYC Legal Officers
NYP

Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?

This is not about who might be involved (addressed above) but how the review might be conducted e.g. sending a questionnaire to each household to gather information on current recycling practices and gathering information on how recycling is carried out in Cities similar to York

Comparison of the council's current policy against the best practice guidance provided by the Dept for Transport
Consideration of the issues specific to this city that a revised policy would need to take into account
Consideration of the pros and cons for the city arising from de-regulation
Meetings with:

- Taxi Proprietors to gather their views on current policy and de-regulation
- Meeting with Highways officers to gather information pertaining to current taxi rank sites and any suitable additional sites across the city
- Meeting with Police to understand any concerns they may have with the current numbers of taxis in the city and any increase in the number of taxis and/or the number of taxi ranks
- Legal Officers to understand the legal issues arising from the current policy

Estimate the timescale for completion.

Please circle below the nearest timescale group, in your estimation, based on the information you have given in this form.

3-6 months

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

As Chair of Licensing and Regulation, over the past few meetings we have been asked to make policy decisions regarding several areas of Taxi Licensing, and I believe the time has arrived to examine the current policy in order to update the situation and make it more robust. It is also my belief that we are at risk legally in the implementation of policy and this also needs to be examined. Earlier this week we made judgements on three applications regarding ownership of vehicles, and this again gives the appearance that we are making or adding to policy in a piecemeal way.

I suggested a scrutiny topic was submitted which had the unanimous support of members, - they stated it should be submitted in the name of the Licensing and Regulation Committee.