

# Taxi licensing

- Aims– to protect the public
- To ensure adequacy of provision
- To make accessible to all
- LA's to determine own policies
- Dft Best Practice Guide

# Taxi Industry

- Hackney
  - Trade from ranks
  - On street
  - Pre booked
  - 2 licences required- vehicle + driver
- Private hire
  - Pre booked only
  - 3 licences- vehicle + driver + operator

# Vehicle licences

- Hackney
- Restricted 178 vehicles
- +2 Jan 11
- April 2011 review policy
- Private hire
- 562 vehicles
- 78 operators
- No numeric restrictions
- Annual renewal – HC 1<sup>st</sup> June PH 1<sup>st</sup> Nov
- Conditions attached to licences (public safety)
- Tested at Eco depot

# Drivers

- Driving licence for 12 months
- Fit and proper:
  - Right to work
  - Medical group 2
  - CRB enhanced-notifiable occupation/ISA
  - Local knowledge test
  - DSA driving test/ Wheelchair assessment if applicable
  - Disability Awareness assessment – online
- Issue for 12months could be 3 years

# Fares

- Hackney
- Must have meter
- Measure time/distance
- Maximum set by LA
- Grisdale formula
- Extras – pets, luggage, fouling
- Private Hire
- No regulation
- May have meter/ chart
- Usually in line with hackneys.

# Fees and governance

- Fees can cover cost of administration and enforcement
- Council not Exec function
- Delegated to committee / officers
- Appeal to Environment Appeals committee
- Subsequent appeal to Mags court

# Scutiney Topics

- Quantity Controls
- Licence Conditions
- Taxi ranks
- Opportunities to enhance provision

# Quantity Restrictions (1)

- LA's can either restrict numbers of HC's or de-limit
- 2/3rds derestricted / some re restricting
- Dft rec's delimitation unless evidence would result in deterioration of amount or quality of service
- Cannot refuse to grant new licences unless can prove no unmet demand-Survey, not visa versa
- Can de limit at any time – if reasonable
- Awaiting quotas on WAV's



# Quantity Restriction (2)

- 178 licensed vehicles
- 90 rented out
- 22 multiple licence holders
- Waiting List 182
- Financial hardship to those renting and low down on waiting list
- Policy review required next spring, options:
  - Retain existing numbers
  - Continue with progressive growth
  - Delimit

# Quantity restrictions (3)

- Should the council interfere in the commercial aspects of the taxi industry?
- Yes
  - Controls numbers prevents overcrowding
  - Quality controls easier??????????
- No
  - Restricts opportunities for those who wish to join the trade
  - Reduces competition on price
  - Limits availability of hackneys

# Vehicle Licence Conditions

- Enforceable only at licensing
- Current problem areas:
  - livery
  - tinted windows
  - emission standards
  - luggage in rear loading Wav's

# Taxi ranks

- Are there enough
- Are they in the right place
- Specific issues – Duncombe Place

# Opportunities to enhance provision

- Adequate provision for disabled travellers
- Rural transport
- Novel vehicles
- ???????