

Review of Taxi Licensing Policy – Recommendations of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered by the Gambling, Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 13 July 2011

1. Not to introduce deregulation. Future increases in the number of taxi licences to be subject to the findings from future unmet demand surveys and the forthcoming quota to be set by the Government for wheelchair accessible vehicles. Notwithstanding this, in an effort to introduce/increase the number of environmentally friendly vehicles in the city's taxi fleet, two additional licences to be made available to applicants with a hybrid or electric vehicle every 6 months.
2. CYC Planning Dept to encourage the siting of new/additional taxi ranks adjacent to major new developments, e.g. outside the new stadium or near the new council offices or major retail centres/supermarkets.
3. CYC to produce a map showing York's taxi ranks indicating times of use and incorporated into other local maps, to raise public awareness of little used ranks in the city centre. Map to be made available on CYC website and hard copies to be provided to relevant external parties, e.g. Visit York.
4. For a 12 month trial period, the rank at Dumcombe Place to be made available for use on a full time basis.
5. To reduce the emissions from hackney carriage and private hire vehicles the following European standards only to be accepted for replacement vehicles, as from 1 June 2012 for hackney carriages and 1 November 2012 for private hire vehicles:
 - For petrol cars – Euro 4 petrol vehicle class
 - For diesel cars – Euro 5 diesel vehicle class
6. To increase the number of low emission vehicles and to meet the forthcoming quota to be set by the government for wheelchair accessible vehicles, a hierarchy should be applied to issuing new vehicles licences in priority order as follows:
 - those applicants providing an electric car

- those applicants providing a hybrid car or euro 3 standard gas fuelled car
 - those applicants providing a wheelchair accessible diesel car
 - those applicants providing a petrol car
7. No additional hackney carriage vehicle licences will be issued to 'non wheelchair accessible' diesel cars.
 8. Where there are a number of applicants with cars of the same type (i.e. the types shown above), the order they are issued vehicle licences should be based on the length of time they have been on the waiting list in line with the council's current policy.
 9. CYC Taxi Licensing Unit to monitor emissions and the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles in York's taxi fleet (hackney carriage and private hire vehicles) by revising their annual inspection regime to ensure the gathering and recording of the relevant information within the new Taxi Licensing Unit computer system (once it is commissioned).
 10. Introduce as soon as is practicable a requirement for new taxi drivers to undertake an eco-driving course prior to the issue of a taxi driver's licence.
 11. Support for the council's current policy in regard to livery of the city's taxi fleet, but in the light of the court judgment, it be made advisory.
 12. Subject to the adequate progression with new technologies making the application practical and the introduction of vehicles charging points. Introduce a zero tail pipe emissions policy similar to the Mayor's plan for London for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles by 2021.
 13. The council be sympathetic towards the introduction of taxi buses for use in rural areas and work with possible future providers to investigate how such services may be introduced.
 14. In regards to taximeters, the policy to include a new specification – *'the taximeter must comply with the Measuring Instruments (Taximeter) Regulations 2006 and must be of the calendar control type which is locked and sealed by an approved manufacturer/supplier and/or installer'*. The application of any GPS

system must provide a comparable level of security for the customer.

15. The new specification to initially apply to new vehicle applications only and subsequently will apply to all existing vehicles, both hackney carriage and private hire (where fitted) with effect from 1 April 2015.
16. The council to continue to assist in raising all drivers awareness of the training programme offered by Visit York.