

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 12 JULY 2012

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

13. FEEDBACK ON CONSULTATION WITH TRADE – TAXI LICENSING POLICY – NEGATIVE RESPONSES RECEIVED TO PROPOSAL TO LIMIT TO 250,000 MILES

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To consider the consultation responses and give further consideration to an appropriate mileage restriction beyond which vehicles will not be re-licensed as taxis.

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSING COMMITTEE: That:

(A)	The Consultation Responses be considered and further consideration be given to an appropriate mileage restriction beyond which vehicles will not be re-licensed as Taxis.

1.0 Background

1.1 East Herts licensed taxis are no longer subject to an age limit after which they will no longer be re-licensed.

1.2 In order to maintain standards among taxi vehicles for safety and passenger comfort, consideration was given by Licensing Committee in March to implement a mileage limit after which vehicles would no longer be re-licensed as taxis.

1.3 Officers reported to Licensing Committee in March and recommended that consideration be given to a limit of 350,000 miles, subject to consultation with the licensed taxi trade, however following debate among Members, a limit of 250,000 miles was proposed, subject to consultation with the licensed taxi trade, and a further report on consultation responses to Licensing Committee.

2.0 Report

2.1 6 individual consultation responses and a petition signed by 43 drivers, were received from the licensed taxi trade. All were very strongly opposed to a limit of 250,000 miles. The responses cited in support of a higher mileage limit were:

- cost;
- modern vehicle longevity means that engine mileage is irrelevant to vehicle condition;
- Private Hire vehicles that do long motorway runs will suffer less wear and clock up more mileage, than Hackney Carriages that are constantly doing stop start work off the rank;
- the Roadworthiness test is sufficient to ensure the vehicle is roadworthy.

2.2 The data base of licensed taxi vehicles shows that on last renewal, of 253 vehicles,

- 141 had a recorded mileage over 100,000,
- 52 had a recorded mileage over 150,000,
- 30 had a recorded mileage over 200,000,
- 16 had a recorded mileage of over 250,000 miles,
- 5 had a recorded mileage of over 300,000 miles, and
- 4 had a recorded mileage of over 350,000.
- The highest mileage recorded on last renewal was just under 382,000 miles.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None.

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