

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

6 DECEMBER 2016

Present: County Councillor Parry(Chairperson)
County Councillors Boyle, Goddard, Hudson, Kelloway, Murphy
and Simmons

21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Lloyd and Derrick Morgan.

22 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

23 Minutes

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Public Protection Committee.

24 Prestige Vehicle Application - Renault Scenic

The Committee did not consider this item as the applicant did not attend.

25 Taxi Demand Survey

The Committee received a report on the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Limitation. Members were advised that in December 2013 the Committee resolved to continue the moratorium placed upon the granting of new hackney carriage vehicle licences as it was satisfied that there was no significant unmet demand. The moratorium was originally implemented in 2010. There are currently 904 licensed hackney carriages in Cardiff and 1100 Private Hire Vehicles.

In its Best Practice Guidance the Department for Transport (DfT) recommends that where local authorities impose a limit on the granting of hackney carriage vehicle licences, an independent survey should be undertaken at no more than three yearly intervals to assess the current levels of demand. AECOM Ltd were commissioned by Cardiff Council to undertake an independent survey of Cardiff's taxi demand in February 2016. The overall recommendation of the AECOM report is that there is no significant unmet demand and that the current moratorium on the granting of new hackney carriage vehicle licences should be maintained.

This report provided the Committee with further detail of how the survey was conducted and the additional findings of the survey.

The Chairperson invited questions from the Committee. Members asked whether there are any plans to increase the number of taxi ranks and were advised that consideration is being given as to whether or not it is feasible to use the bus lane after hours, although this does present some legal issues. At the present time it is not possible to increase the number of ranks in the City Centre.

In response to a question from a Member, the Officer indicated that the survey related to

hackney carriages only and therefore Uber taxi's would not have had any impact on the findings of the survey.

Members queried why there has been such an increase in Private Hire Vehicles and were advised that Private Hire companies have their own strict standards. Members were also advised that there the current resource only allowed for 6 officers to inspect and monitor standards.

Members asked about the disability training provided for drivers and were advised that there are stringent requirements in place in relation to disability training and drivers believe that the Authority is too strict. It is hoped to introduce a new policy shortly which will include information/training in relation to Safeguarding issues.

There remains communication difficulties with drivers and the various companies. Meetings have been arranged however, attendance has been low and officers are now looking at providing an Information Page for Drivers on the website to keep drivers and companies updated.

RESOLVED – That based on the results of the AECOM survey, the Committee approve the continuation of the current moratorium on the issue of new hackney carriage proprietor licences.