

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

3 DECEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Derbyshire, Goddard, Jacobsen, Lancaster, Robson
and Wood

13 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

14 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

15 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 November 2019 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

16 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE LIMITATION

The Committee received a report on Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Limitation. Members were advised that the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Transport Act 1985 gives local authorities the power to grant hackney carriage proprietor (vehicle) licences and a Licensing Authority may limit the number of licences issued provided it has evidence that there is no significant level of unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages.

In Cardiff in December 2016 the Public Protection 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 and there are currently 946 licensed hackney carriages in the city.

The Department for Transport (DfT) Best Practice Guidance 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 were commissioned by Cardiff Council to undertake an independent survey of Cardiff's taxi demand in the summer of 2019. The findings were attached to the report in Appendices A - D.

The overall recommendation of the AECOM report is that Cardiff Council should maintain the current moratorium on the issue of new licences in Cardiff, except where there is need in the future for additional licences in the event that section 161 of the Equality Act 2010 is brought into force.

This report provided the Committee with further detail of how the survey was conducted and the additional findings of the survey to allow the Committee to consider fully the recommendation.

The Committee debated the findings and in particular issues around disabled accessible vehicles and emissions standards. The Committee considered that the case for no increase in the number of licences issues had been satisfactorily made. Members questioned whether it would be possible to exempt electric vehicles from the limit. Officers indicated that a report on vehicle emissions would be brought forward in the near future.

Responding to a question from the Committee, officers also indicated that the authority have no powers to prevent cross-border hire and vehicles licensed by other authorities can legally carry out private hire work in Cardiff.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) Based on the results of AECOM surveys, the Committee approved the continuation of the current moratorium on the issue of new hackney carriage proprietor licences.
- (2) Members noted that the Licensing Department will work with a number of stakeholders running an education and awareness campaign to help improve understanding amongst the public.

17 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were presented.

The meeting terminated at 11.00 am