



**Customer and Workforce Services
Directorate**

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Our reference C/EMK
11th October, 2011

Dear 

**Petitions – (i) Cap on the Number of Taxis
(ii) Request for a One or Three Year Drivers Licence for Coventry Taxi
Drivers**

I refer to the above petitions and to the report back on the Taxi Services Review which was considered by the Cabinet Member (City Services) at his meeting on Wednesday 28th September, 2011. I write to inform you that at this meeting Councillor Harvard took account of the consultations undertaken with the Coventry Taxi Association; the results of the formal survey carried out by Jacobs to establish whether there was any significant unmet demand for taxis in Coventry; the results of the fare's benchmarking exercise; and to the recommendations put forward following the review of taxi services in the City.

Councillor Harvard decided to give approval for the introduction of a limit on the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences in Coventry at the level registered on 19th September 2011, including any applications pending, if received before close of business on 19th September 2011. He also gave approval to the adoption of the procedure detailed in Appendix 1 of the report for processing all hackney carriage vehicle licence applications made after this date. He requested officers review the effect of the limit on the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences after 12 months. In addition it was decided that the continuation of the limit policy beyond three years only be permitted where supported by the outcome of a further unmet demand survey.

In light of these decisions he gave approval for the following wording to be included at page 129 of the City Council's Constitution after the heading "To refuse to grant where":



"(b) It is necessary to do so to maintain the Council's policy on the control of Hackney Carriage Vehicle numbers."

Councillor Harvard endorsed that the review of taxi rank locations be implemented in two phases; concentrating firstly on those ranks in the City Centre affected by the Coventry 2012 public realm improvements and secondly looking to implement changes to ranks not affected by Coventry 2012 and those outside the City Centre.

In light of the outcome of the fares benchmarking exercise, he decided that there should be no rise in taxi fares at the current time. In addition, as the waiting times for vehicle inspections had improved to an appropriate level, he requested that monitoring be continued to ensure that this improvement in the service was maintained.

The Cabinet Member noted that following independent tests the grille design proposed by the Coventry Taxi Association failed to pass necessary safety standards and would not therefore be considered further at the present time. He asked the officers to continue to support the CTA in exploring viable alternatives. He also gave approval for officers to continue working with the Police and the Coventry Taxi Association to develop an approved list of in-vehicle CCTV suppliers.

Councillor Harvard gave approval for the current one-year driver licence arrangements to be retained but asked for the issue to be reviewed again following the introduction of an improved Notifiable Occupation Scheme, or sooner, should implementation of the new scheme be unreasonably delayed.

Lastly, the Cabinet Member endorsed that officers continue to explore any further options to strengthen the School Transport Services contracts to improve the safety of contracted taxi services and that officers continue to work together across Directorates and with neighbouring authorities to undertake joint enforcement operations to raise the safety standards of non-Coventry licensed taxis and drivers contracted on School Transport Services.

No doubt you will inform the petitioners accordingly. I am sending a copy of this letter to the petitions' spokespersons for their information.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Liz Knight
Governance Services Officer

Copy to: Petitions spokespersons