

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Licensing

DATE: 23 November 2011

DIRECTOR: Stewart Carruth

TITLE OF REPORT: Taxi Demand Survey

REPORT NUMBER: CG/11/138

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the Taxi Demand Survey ("the Survey"), by TRI (Transport Research Institute, Taxi Studies Group, Edinburgh Napier University).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- a. note the results of the Survey and only consider imposing a limit on the number of taxi licences as part of a package of measures as recommended in the Survey;
- b. instruct officers to consult with Transportation Strategy & Programmes officers, Community Safety officers and Grampian Police for their respective interests on the rank specific recommendations in the Survey and report back to Committee; and
- c. instruct officers, when the report at 2(b) is available, to report back to Committee on the desirability and consequences of imposing a limit on the number of taxi licences as part of a package of measures to enhance the supply of taxis in Aberdeen.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report. There may be additional costs in connection with some measures recommended in the Survey and these will be identified in the future reports recommended.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Significant staff resource will be required to follow up the recommendations in the Survey.

BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting on 14 September 2011 the Committee instructed officers

to proceed with a contract for a taxi demand survey and appoint TRI as the preferred bidder. The taxi demand survey was instructed by Committee to establish the current position with regard to potential significant unmet demand, in order that it could meet its obligations in terms of Section 10(3) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The Survey has now been completed and the Executive Summary of the Survey is attached. Members will see that the main conclusion is that the case for quantity control (i.e. setting a limit on the number of taxi licences) is very finely balanced. The Survey makes a number of recommendations and strongly advises that the recommendations be considered as part of a package of measures, which together will enhance the supply of taxis in Aberdeen.

This advice (i.e. to consider a package of measures) is considered sound. A number of the recommendations are interlinking and will have implications for other services and perhaps corporate policies, as well as cost implications going forward. There is for example a recommendation to undertake regular demand reviews and to link those with reviews of taxi tariff. It may be that some of the rank specific recommendations are simple to accommodate whereas others may not be practical and further information is needed from relevant sources on such matters. The Committee will therefore require advice from relevant officers in other services, such as Transport and Community Safety as well as Grampian Police, before making any decisions on the recommendations. Once that advice is available the Committee will also require a further report as per recommendation 2(c) above before being in a position to make decisions on specific recommendations.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – as a result of the Survey the licensing authority is better able to meet its taxi licensing duties in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. The Committee should be aware of Council Community Safety and Transport Zone policies, which may be impacted by amendments to taxi services in the City.

Public – The Survey is of interest to members of the public who use the taxi service in the city.

Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment - It is not considered that an EHRIA is required. However, information provided in the Survey in relation to wheelchair accessible vehicles may be used in future reports.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

A hard copy of the main Survey and Appendices is available in the Members' Lounge.

Alternatively if Members wish to be provided with an electronic copy please contact Mark Masson (01224 522989 mmasson@aberdeencity.gov.uk).

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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