



## **Taxi Availability in Oldham**

A screening exercise

January 2007

## **Introduction**

The licensed hackney carriage (taxi) trade in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham operates under a restricted number of licences. The law requires that, where such a policy is in place, the Licensing Authority must be satisfied that there is no significant unmet demand. This is usually done by way of a survey.

In Oldham, the Licensing Authority is currently considering the complete withdrawal of the total limit on the number of taxi licences issued. If it does this, no survey is required. During the course of discussions, anecdotal evidence has been presented to suggest that there is significant unmet demand for taxi services – particularly outside Oldham and Royton Town Centres.

The purpose of this project is to examine that anecdotal evidence in some more detail and provide some statistics around the availability of taxis for public hire in the Borough.

This is not an unmet demand survey as required by the Secretary of State's Best Practice Guidelines. That would require a far more detailed piece of work, which has not been commissioned pending the outcome of the Licensing Authorities decision whether or not to continue with a limitation policy.

## **Executive Summary**

This project undertook a traffic survey between 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007. It found that:

- Just 0.2% (n.14) of the vehicles passing a fixed point over 7 hours of observation were licensed hackney carriages available for hire.
- At 10 out of 14 locations in the Borough, none of the vehicles passing were licensed hackney carriages available for hire.
- The prevalent locations for taxi availability were at or near Oldham Town Centre.
- At key times during the day, licensed hackney carriages were not available for hire from the two main Oldham Town Centre ranks.

## Traffic Survey

The traffic survey was conducted at 14 locations throughout the Borough of Oldham. Only main "A" roads were used to ensure the greatest flow of traffic to observe.

The survey was conducted at varying times of the day in blocks of 30 minutes.

The survey measured four parameters:

- The total number of all vehicles passing that point in any direction
- The total number of private hire vehicles passing that point in any direction
- The total number of hackney carriage vehicles (hired) passing that point in any direction
- The total number of hackney carriage vehicles (available for hire) passing that point in any direction.

Vehicles licensed by any other authority passing the points were counted as general vehicles and not towards the licensed vehicles totals.

- In total, 7,046 vehicles of all types were observed.
- 14 of the vehicles (0.2%) were hackney carriages available for hire.
- 244 of the vehicles (3.5%) were private hire vehicles.
- At 10 of the 14 locations, no hackney carriages (available for hire or not) were observed. These locations included Ashton Road (A627), Hollins Road (A6114), Chadderton Town Centre (A669), Hollinwood Avenue (by Morrisons) (A6104), Lees Road (A669), High Street, Uppermill (A670) and Shaw Town Centre (A663).

The two main hackney carriage ranks in Oldham are located at Dan Fold, by the central bus station and Yorkshire Street, by the Old Town Hall. During Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, CCTV recorded the number of vehicles available for hire at each location on the hour each hour between 08:00 hours and midnight.

Generally, a high level of availability was observed, but at key times during those days there was no availability at all. At 22:00 hours on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, no hackney carriages were available for hire

from the Yorkshire Street rank and a queue of approximately 10 people had developed.

The following table shows where at least one vehicle was available for hire in green and where no vehicles were available for hire in red. Information is not available for those times shown in yellow.

Day & Time	Dan Fold Rank	Yorkshire Street Rank
23.1.07 08:00	Green	Red
23.1.07 09:00	Red	Green
23.1.07 10:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 11:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 12:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 13:00	Red	Green
23.1.07 14:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 15:00	Red	Green
23.1.07 16:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 17:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 18:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 19:00	Green	Green
23.1.07 20:00	Red	Green
23.1.07 21:00	Green	Red
23.1.07 22:00	Red	Red
23.1.07 23:00	Red	Red
24.1.07 00:00	Red	Green
26.1.07 08:00	Green	Red
26.1.07 09:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 10:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 11:00	Yellow	Yellow
26.1.07 12:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 13:00	Red	Red
26.1.07 14:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 15:00	Yellow	Yellow
26.1.07 16:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 17:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 18:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 19:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 20:00	Green	Green
26.1.07 21:00	Yellow	Green
26.1.07 22:00	Yellow	Red
26.1.07 23:00	Green	Green
27.1.07 00:00	Yellow	Yellow

Date	Time	Location	Road	Hackney Carriages (for hire)	Hackney Carriages (hired)	Private Hire Vehicles	Total All Vehicles
5/1/2007	20:55 – 21:25	Failsworth Pole	A62	2	0	51	306
6/1/2007	20:50 – 21:20	Broadway/Long Lane	A662	1	0	22	320
8/1/2007	10:50 – 11:20	Ashton Road	A627	0	0	6	348
9/1/2007	11:05 – 11:35	Hollins Road (Victoria Inn)	A6114	0	0	18	405
11/1/2007	14:32 – 15:02	Middleton Road (Chadderton Town Centre)	A669	0	0	21	578
12/1/2007	19:48 – 20:18	Hollinwood Avenue (Morrisons)	A6104	0	0	22	435
15/1/2007	14:38 – 15:08	Lees Road, Moorhey	A669	5	0	36	760
16/1/2007	14:50 – 15:20	Lees Road, Grasscroft	A669	0	0	2	556
17/1/2007	15:00 – 15:30	Huddersfield Road	A62	6	9	26	1144
18/1/2007	14:55 – 15:24	Chew Valley Road, Greenfield	A669	0	0	3	328
19/1/2007	16:00 –	High Street,	A670	0	0	8	559

Date	Time	Location	Road	Hackney Carriages (for hire)	Hackney Carriages (hired)	Private Hire Vehicles	Total All Vehicles
	16:30	Uppermill					
19/1/2007	19:46 – 20:16	Delph New Road	A6052	0	0	6	123
20/1/2007	22:14 – 22:44	King Street, Delph	A6052	0	0	7	67
26/1/2007	19:50 – 20:20	Rochdale Road, Shaw	A663	0	0	16	357
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>7046</b>