

TASK & FINISH GROUP

REFORM OF TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING CONDITIONS

REPORT OF INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Task and Finish Group established by the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission with background material on the proposals to reform the taxi and private hire licensing conditions in Oldham.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members will find the following information in the appendices:

Appendix A – A report by the Office of Fair Trading (Nov 2003) on the regulation of licensed taxi and private hire vehicles services in the UK.

Appendix B – An assessment of the potential effectiveness of introducing an age limiting vehicle licensing policy on controlling exhaust emissions from taxis within the Greater Manchester and Warrington areas carried out for the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.

Appendix C – Disability Information Booklet (2004)

Appendix D – Letter from the Department for Transport requesting all councils restricting the number of taxi licences in England and Wales outside London to review quantity control policies.

Appendix E – Consultation paper published by Oldham Council called “Quality Taxis as a Public Service” seeking views on the draft of proposals to reform taxi and private hire licensing in Oldham.

Appendix F – Summary of responses to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”

Appendix G – Response of Oldham Primary Care Trust to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”.

Appendix H – Response of Greater Manchester Police to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”.

Appendix I – Response of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”.

Appendix J – Response of Oldham Town Centre Partnership to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”.

Appendix K – Response of the Traffic & Transportation Management Service to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”.

Appendix L – Response of the Oldham Taxi Owners Association to the consultation paper “Quality Taxis as a Public Service”.

Appendix M – The Secretary of State’s Best Practice Guidelines for the Licensing of Taxi and Private Hire Services in England and Wales outside London (Oct 2006)

Appendix N – Report of a survey conducted between 5th and 24th January 2007 into the availability of taxis for public hire within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.

Appendix O – Report of the Interim Executive Director for Environmental Services to the Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission setting out the proposals, after due consideration of the responses to the consultation paper, legal advice and best practice guidelines, for the reform of taxi and private hire licensing conditions in Oldham.

2.2 Members are also invited to hear oral evidence from:

Mr John Rice – Interim Service Director for Environmental Protection – responsibility for the services covered by the report

Mr Tony Allen – Group Manager (Trading Standards & Licensing) – responsibility for taxi and private hire licensing in Oldham

Mr John Dinsdale – Principal Environmental Health Officer – responsibility for the implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan in Oldham

Superintendent Stuart Harman – Operational Support, Greater Manchester Police, Oldham

Mr James Button – Specialist expert in Licensing Law and Practice with particular experience of licensing reforms throughout the UK and the impact of the OFT report and Secretary of State’s best practice guidelines on licensing practices in UK local authorities

Mr Andrew Shaw & Mr Steve Morgan – Mann & Overton – principal supplier of purpose built taxi vehicles in the UK.

Mr Stephen Wrigley – Access 4 All – an Oldham-based Disability Action Group

Mr Mohammed Nawaz – Oldham Private Hire Association

Mrs J Connolly – National Taxi Trades Group – representing the views of the Oldham Taxi Owners Association

Such other people attending the meeting of the Task & Finish Group as members feel appropriate.

The following is a list of the background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by that Act.

File Ref - “Records Held in Department”

Any Person wishing to inspect copies of the above background papers should contact:-

Tony Allen – 0161 770 4480