

**To:** General Purposes Licensing Committee

**Date:** 18 May 2016

**Report of:** Head of Community Services

**Title of Report:** Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control – Unmet Demand Survey

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To consider the report of the “Unmet Demand” survey that was carried out between 7 September 2015 and 20 December 2015

**Report Approved by:**

**Finance:** Paul Swaffield

**Legal:** Daniel Smith

**Policy Framework:** Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control  
Vibrant Sustainable Economy  
Cleaner, Greener Oxford

**Recommendation(s):** That the General Purposes Licensing Committee resolves to:

- (i) agree to accept the conclusions of the Hackney Carriage “Unmet Demand” survey report prepared by CTS Traffic and Transportation that there is currently no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles;
- (ii) recommend to Council that there is currently no unmet demand for the services of Hackney Carriage Vehicles and to therefore resolve to maintain the Council’s Policy of Hackney Carriage Quantity Control and the current quota of 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences; and
- (iii) recommend to Council that a further “Unmet Demand” survey be commissioned in 2018, subject to any future changes to relevant legislation.

**Additional Papers:**

**Appendix 1:** “Unmet Demand” Survey Report

## Introduction

1. A Licensing Authority is permitted by virtue of S. 37 of The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and S.16 of The Transport Act 1985 to limit the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences that it issues provided that the Authority is **“satisfied that there is no significant demand for the services of Hackney Carriages ..... which is unmet”**.
2. A Hackney Carriage Quantity Control Policy is in force locally and has the effect of limiting the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences granted by the Authority to a level that meets but does not exceed demand for the services of Hackney Carriage Vehicles. The current quota is set at 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences.
3. The Licensing Authority reviews the specified limit by carrying out periodic “Unmet Demand” surveys. The Policy itself forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and changes need be agreed by Council.

## Background

4. A full review of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licensing function was carried out by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee (November 2007).
5. The recommendations from that review were presented to this Committee in January 2008, and the recommendation of the Committee to implement an official Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control (as an unofficial quota of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences had been historically set) was agreed by Council (June 2008), including imposing a requirement that periodic reviews of the Policy were carried out. This was then agreed by the General Purposes Licensing Committee and a study on “Unmet Demand” was requested to determine if there is a significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage vehicles.
6. An Unmet Demand survey was carried out by Halcrow Group between October 2012 and December 2012, resulting in a recommendation by this Committee to Council to maintain the current policy and restrict the quota of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences issued to a maximum of 107. A further “Unmet Demand” survey was requested be commissioned in 2015.
7. In September 2012 Council approved the recommendations of this Committee, resulting in the quota of 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences issued by this Authority remaining unchanged, and to commission a further Unmet Demand survey be carried out in 2015.

## **Hackney Carriage Vehicles “Unmet Demand” Survey 2015**

8. CTS Traffic and Transportation were appointed to undertake the survey, which was carried out between 7 September 2015 and 20 December 2015, with further interrogation of research (video and data intelligence) until February 2016.
9. CTS Traffic and Transportation’s report is attached at **Appendix 1**, the recommendations are on *Page 45* of the survey report. Ahead of this Committee meeting the full “Unmet Demand” survey report has been emailed to Members and a hard copy has been made available in St Aldate’s Chambers.
10. The survey recommends:  
  
*“There is no evidence of any unmet demand for hackney carriages either patent or latent which is significant at this point in time in the Oxford area. The committee is therefore able to retain the current policy and limit at the present level and defend this if necessary.”*
11. A consultant from CTS Traffic and Transportation will be at the meeting to present the report to this Committee and answer any questions Members may have.

### **Legal Implications**

12. Any legal implications are contained within this report.

### **Financial Implications**

13. Any financial implications contained within this report will be met within existing budgets.

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