

To: General Purposes Licensing Committee
Date: 14th May 2019
Report of: Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety
Title of Report: Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control – Unmet Demand Survey

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To consider the recommendations in the “Unmet Demand Survey” report (2018) and agree the Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control
Corporate Priority	Vibrant Sustainable Economy
Policy Framework	Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control
Recommendations: That the General Purposes Licensing Committee resolves to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to accept the recommendations of the Hackney Carriage “Unmet Demand survey” report prepared by Licensed Vehicle Surveys and Assessment (LVSA) indicating that there is currently no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Oxford 2. Recommend to Council that there is currently no significant unmet demand for the services of Hackney Carriage Vehicles and therefore to resolve to maintain the Council’s Policy of Hackney Carriage Quantity Control and the current quota of 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences 3. Recommend to Council that a further “Unmet Demand survey” be commissioned in 2021, subject to any changes to relevant legislation. 	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	“Unmet Demand Survey” Report

(included on committee papers at
 Item 6 of <http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=149&MIId=4377>)

Introduction and background

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. The recommendation 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 in June 2008, including imposing a requirement that periodic reviews of the Policy were carried out.
3. 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.
4. The Licensing Authority reviews the specified limit by carrying out “Unmet Demand Surveys” every three years, which is following government best practice advice. The Policy itself forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and changes need to be agreed by the Council.
5. CTS Traffic and Transportation were appointed to undertake the survey in 2015, which was carried out between September 2015 and December 2015. The survey resulted in a recommendation by this Committee to Council to maintain the existing policy and restrict the quota of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences issued to a maximum of 107. A further “Unmet Demand” survey was requested to be commissioned in 2018.

Hackney Carriage Vehicles “Unmet Demand Survey” 2018

6. Following Council tendering process, CTS Traffic and Transportation trading as Licensed Vehicle Surveys and Assessment (LVSA), were appointed to undertake the “Unmet Demand Survey” in 2018. The survey was carried out between September 2018 and December 2018, with further interrogation of research (video and data intelligence) until March 2019. The survey was conducted in accordance with Best Practice Guidance produced by the Department of Transport in April 2010.
7. Licensed Vehicle Surveys and Assessment’s (LVSA) report is attached at **Appendix One**, the recommendations are on *Page 53* of the survey report.
8. The survey recommends:

“On the basis of the evidence gathered in this Unmet demand survey for Oxford City Council, our key conclusion is that there is no evidence of any unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages either patent or latent which is significant at this point in time in the Oxford City Council licensing area. The committee is therefore able to determine to continue its present policy of limiting hackney carriage vehicle numbers, and to retain the level of vehicles at the present number”.
9. A consultant from Licensed Vehicle Surveys and Assessment (LVSA) shall be available at the meeting to present the report to this Committee and answer any questions Members may have.

Legal Implications

10. Any legal implications are contained within this report.

Financial Implications

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

Recommendations

16. The Committee is recommended to:
- (i) agree to accept the recommendations of the Hackney Carriage “Unmet Demand” survey report prepared by Licensed Vehicle Surveys and Assessment (LVSA), indicating that there is currently no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles;
 - (ii) recommend to Council that there is currently no significant unmet demand for the services of Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Oxford and to resolve to maintain the Council’s Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control and the current quota of 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences;
 - (iii) recommend to Council that a further “Unmet Demand” survey be commissioned in 2021, subject to any future changes to relevant legislation.

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