

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL**Licensing Committee – 26 March 2015****LIMIT ON TAXI NUMBERS IN PERTH AND BLAIRGOWRIE****Report by Head of Legal Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report outlines the findings and recommendations of a recent survey of demand for taxis in Perth and in Blairgowrie and proposes that the limit of seventy taxis for Perth and twelve taxis for Blairgowrie should remain unchanged.

1 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Council is responsible for regulating taxi and private hire operators and drivers in the Perth and Kinross area. In terms of Section 10(3) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, an application for the grant of a taxi licence may be refused by a licensing authority for the purpose of limiting the number of taxis in respect of which licences are granted by them if, but only if, they are satisfied that there is no significant demand for the services of taxis in their area which is unmet. The Council currently limits the number of taxi operator licences for Perth and Blairgowrie to seventy and twelve respectively. In order to be satisfied that there is no significant unmet demand, it is normal practice to carry out a survey.
- 1.2 A survey of whether there is any significant unmet demand for taxi services in the Perth and Blairgowrie areas was carried out in January and February 2015. The survey was carried out by Vector Transport Consultancy according to current best practice in this field. The survey was based on rank observation and a public survey.
- 1.3 The survey concludes that there is no significant unmet demand for taxi services in Perth or Blairgowrie. A copy of the report which outlines the findings is attached as an Appendix.

2 PROPOSAL

As the survey concludes that there is no significant unmet demand for taxi services in Perth or Blairgowrie at this time, it is proposed that the current limits on the number of taxi operator licences granted by the Council for these areas remains unchanged.

3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Following receipt of a survey that concludes that there is no significant unmet demand for taxis in the Perth and Blairgowrie area it is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the findings of the survey carried out by Vector Transport Consultancy;
- (ii) Agrees that the current limits of 70 operator licences and twelve operator licences granted by the Council for the areas of Perth and Blairgowrie respectively remain unchanged.

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Geoff Fogg	Legal Manager	12 March 2015

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IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	None
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

The report contributes to the following priority:

- 1.1 (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The report contributes to the following priority:

- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 Not Applicable

Workforce

- 2.2 Not Applicable

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

Not Applicable

3. Assessments

Not applicable

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as not relevant for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Not Applicable

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.3 The proposals contained within this report have been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

Not applicable

Legal and Governance

- 3.3 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted.

Risk

Not Applicable

4 Consultation

Internal

4.1 Not applicable

External

5 Communication

5.1 The trade was consulted about this report.

6 Background papers

None

7 Appendices

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