

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE REGULATORY PANEL**

Date of Meeting:- 10th August 2011

Agenda Item No:-

Public	Operational	Delegated Yes
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Accompanying Comments and Statements	Required	Included
Cumbria Fire Service	No	No
Cumbria Constabulary	No	No
Environmental Services	No	No

Title:-	TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES – ROAD TO REFORM
Report of:-	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR- GOVERNANCE
Report reference:-	GD 48/11

Summary:-

A Transport Select Committee was formed late in 2010 to look at hackney carriage and private hire legislation. It has long been recognised by the trade and local authorities that reform in this area of licensing is long overdue. The Select Committee was asked to specifically consider problems involved in 'cross border hire'. The Select Committee has now published a report on their findings.

Recommendation:-

It is requested that the Members of the Regulatory Panel note the content of this report.

J A Messenger
Licensing Manager

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: UK Parliament report - Transport Committee - Seventh Report
Taxis and private hire vehicles: the road to reform

To the Chairman & Members of the Regulatory Panel on 10th August 2011

Legislation

There are two main areas of legislation that apply to the licensing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles:

- Town Police Clauses Act 1847
- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

In addition there have been many high court decisions which have helped to form the current understanding of this subject.

The Transport Committee

The Transport Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Transport and its Associate Public Bodies.

In December 2010 a Transport Select Committee was formed to look at Taxi and Private Hire vehicles, specifically looking at the phenomenon known as 'cross-border hire'.

This committee has met on a number of occasions this year and has considered both verbal and written evidence. Many legal experts in the field, the trade and representatives from local government gave evidence. The observations of the Council's licensing team were submitted through the submission of the Institute of Licensing.

Full details of the evidence heard and the committee report are available on the following link: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmtran/720/72002.htm>

The committee concluded 'In our view the case for a thorough overhaul of the legislation relating to taxis and private hire vehicles is irresistible'.

The conclusions and recommendations of the committee are attached (**Appendix 1**).

Local Government Group

The Regulatory Support Unit of the Local Government Group (formerly LACORS) have just published information on a Law Commission review of taxi and private hire regulation, independent of the Transport Select Committee recommendations. This information is attached (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendation

It is requested that the Members of the Regulatory Panel note the content of this report.

Prepared by J A Messenger
Licensing Manager