

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
2 OCTOBER 2008**

**BRACKNELL LICENSED TAXI FORUM
(Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 On 3 June 2008 the Council Leader, Councillor Paul Bettison, received a petition from a group called the Bracknell Licensed Taxi Forum (BLTF). This petition raised concerns that were held by members of the licensed trade within the Borough in relation to the number of licensed vehicles, the lack of business, the requirement for wheelchair accessible taxis and increasing costs.
- 1.2 The Leader responded to the petition and asked officers to meet with representatives of the BLTF to discuss the issues raised in further detail. A meeting was held on 3 September 2008 and the purpose of this report is to advise members of those discussions and to seek comments.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the contents of the minutes at Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agrees that officers bring to the Committee meeting on 5 February 2009 a report on a proposal for an unmet demand survey, including the results of any consultation with the trade.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 There are no implications identified.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 3.3 There are no implications arising from the adoption of the recommendations.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 3.4 There are no strategic risk management implications arising from the adoption of the recommendations.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 On 3 September 2008, officers met with representatives of the Bracknell Licensed Taxi Forum (BLTF). The minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix A. Officers were advised that the majority of taxi owners had joined the GMB union and were to be represented at the meeting by Mick Hildreth, GMB Professional Drivers Branch National (Provincial) Hackney Carriage Secretary. Mr Hildreth had contacted officers shortly before the meeting to apologise that he would not be able to attend.
- 4.2 At the meeting, the BLTF requested a suspension on the issue of any new hackney carriage vehicle licences. They acknowledge that this will require a survey to be carried out to assess whether there is unmet demand. They understand that the cost of the survey would be met by increasing the fees for hackney carriage licences.

Background Papers

Bracknell Licensed Taxi Forum petition

Contact for further information

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