



REPORT TO LICENSING & SAFETY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF BLTF

SUBJECT : TAXI LIMITATION

DATE ; 13.01.2010

Dear members,

Since the last committee meeting in early October 09 when you decided to implement a limiting policy on hackney carriage licenses within the Borough of Bracknell, we are pleased to inform you that although this policy is still in its infancy it has had a stabilizing effect on the trade.

In the subsequent meeting we attended with Licensing Officers and Steve Loudoun, we were delighted to hear Mr Loudoun announce that he was now fully in support of the new limiting policy, and would be committed to helping the trade in any way he could through the difficult times ahead.

One area that has been identified within the TPI survey for improvement is in the wheelchair sector. The BLTF has been aware of some problems in this area and intend to work with licensing officers to improve the service we deliver to our wheelchair bound customers and optimize maximum market potential.

Although the TPI survey produced a very technical panoramic view of the taxi trade within the Borough, it clearly concluded that one of the major factors for people not to use taxis was cost. We are therefore very pleased to inform the committee that after consulting the membership the BLTF GMB members have requested **NO** increase in the metered fare for 2010.

It is the BLTF's intension this year to work closely with the council / licensing officers to address all the recommendations set out in the TPI report. We felt that overall the residents of Bracknell and paying public were pleased with the level of service currently being delivered by the hackney carriage trade but we believe there is always room for improvement.

We hope the committee has now had a chance to examine the TPI report in greater detail and understand how important the limiting policy will be to maintain the exiting high quality taxi fleet that the residents of Bracknell and visitors alike enjoy. The committee will be aware that most of the hackney carriage trade is generated within the town centre. This is consistent with most other towns and cities. The problems facing the trade within Bracknell started long before the recession and we would like the committee to note that even if the country came out of recession at some point this year it is likely not to have a great impact on the trade. Hackney carriages thrive in vibrant towns and cities, and we feel until the completion of the regeneration that this is unlikely to be the case in Bracknell. The TPI stated in its report that Bracknell Forest Borough had more than an adequate number of taxis to meet the demand for the next 3 years. We therefore request that the committee vote to keep the limiting policy in place.

John Yexley BLTF Chairman
Andrew Watson BLTF Secretary