



Report No: Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles**

Wards Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **15 May 2014**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to Budget: **No** Change to Policy Framework: **No**

Contact Officer: **Steve Cox**  
Telephone: **01803 208034**  
E.mail: **Steve.cox@torbay.gov.uk**

## **1. What we are trying to achieve**

- 1.1 This report is to advise and update Members of their aspiration to make 5% of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fleet wheelchair accessible by 2018.

## **2. Recommendation(s) for decision**

- 2.1 That Members note the progress made to date and agree that a survey is undertaken of owners, drivers and users of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles to try to identify barriers to the increase in wheelchair accessible vehicles, with recommendations on how to increase this percentage.

## **3. Key points and reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 By the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Torbay Council is the Licensing Authority in respect of Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and their drivers within Torbay.
- 3.2 On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 Licensing Committee agreed to amend the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to include an aspirational target of 5% of both fleets being wheelchair accessible. See Appendix 1.
- 3.3 This has been achieved by the end of September 2013, but it was agreed a further report be submitted following the taxi renewals on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. This has shown a very slight increase in the number of vehicles from 32 to 34.
- 3.4 In the next 12 months there will be an Unmet Demand Survey undertaken by a private contractor, which will involve talking to drivers, owners and users. To

understand the potential barriers to increasing the fleet of wheel chair accessible vehicles, it is recommended that this is incorporated into the tender for this survey.

**For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to Appendix A.**

**Frances Hughes**  
**Executive Head Community Safety**

## **Appendix A – Supporting information to Report**

### **A1. Introduction and history**

A1.1 By the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Torbay Council is the Licensing Authority in respect of Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and their drivers within Torbay.

A1.2 On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 Licensing Committee agreed to amend the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to include an aspirational target of 5% of both fleets being wheelchair accessible by 2018. See appendix one.

A 1.3 This was achieved as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 6.8% of the Hackney Carriage Fleet (11 out of 169) and 7.2% of the Private Hire Fleet (21 out of 293) were wheelchair accessible.

A1.4 It was agreed that a further report be submitted following the renewal period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015. The figures for that date are 9.5% of the Hackney Carriage Fleet (16 out of 169) and 6.8% of the Private Hire Fleet (18 out of 273) were wheelchair accessible. This is a small increase in Hackney Carriages but a slight decrease in Private Hire Vehicles. Overall this is an increase in two vehicles.

A1.5 In the next 12 months there will be an Unmet Demand Survey undertaken by a private contactor, which will involve talking to drivers, owners and users. To understand the potential barriers to increasing the fleet of wheel chair accessible vehicles, it is recommended that this is incorporated into the tender for this survey.

### **A2. Risk assessment of preferred option**

#### **A2.1 Outline of significant key risks**

There are no significant risks.

### **A3. Options**

A3.1 To agree to the recommendation or to set a higher aspirational figure.

### **A4. Summary of resource implications**

A4.1 There are no resource implications for the Council

### **A5. What impact will there be on equalities, environmental sustainability and crime and disorder?**

A5.1 There are no environmental sustainability or crime and disorder issues. This is an equalities issue and positive progress is being made.

### **A6. Consultation and Customer Focus**

A6.1 There was public and trade consultation on the new Policy in 2012 and as part of the Unmet Demand study in 2011.

### **A7. Are there any implications for other Business Units?**

A7.1 There are no significant implications for other business units.

**Appendices**

None

**Documents available in members' rooms**

None

**Background Papers:**

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

None