

**TRANSPORT FOR LONDON**

**SURFACE TRANSPORT PANEL**

**SUBJECT: PRIVATE HIRE CONSULTATION UPDATE**

**DATE: 17 FEBRUARY 2011**

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**1 PURPOSE AND DECISION REQUIRED**

- 1.1 This paper updates the Panel on the latest position following the recent Private Hire consultation which closed on 14 January 2011.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Legislation for private hire licensing in London was passed in 1998, and regulations were introduced for the three strands of licensing (operators, drivers and vehicles) between 2001 and 2004, following a comprehensive consultation process.
- 2.2 All operators were licensed in 2001, although drivers and vehicles were initially covered by temporary permits. Full driver licensing was introduced from 2003 and vehicle licensing from 2004. Where necessary, minor changes to the regulations have subsequently been introduced.
- 2.3 Following extensive pre consultation dialogue with private hire trade representatives and other stakeholders, a consultation document was published on 5 October 2010 covering various proposals (see Appendix 1) relating to the licensing of private hire drivers, vehicles and operators.
- 2.4 The consultation was initially due to close on 24 December 2010 but was extended to 14 January 2011 at the request of a number of key stakeholders.

**3 RESPONSES**

- 3.1 In total, 77 responses have been received including five private hire trade associations, 32 private hire operators and two individual private hire drivers, as well as a number of taxi trade organisations and drivers and key stakeholders such as London TravelWatch, the Metropolitan Police Cab Enforcement Unit and the City of London Police.

## **4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 Analysis of the responses is now underway and proposals for any changes, taking into account the views and evidence expressed by key stakeholders. Given the sensitivities, any firm proposals and recommendations will be put forward for consideration to a future meeting of the Surface Transport Panel (to be confirmed) and TfL Board (if required) with the implementation of any agreed proposals to commence in autumn/winter of 2011.

## **5 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 The Panel is asked to NOTE the paper.

## **6 CONTACT**

- 6.1 Contact: John Mason, Director, London Taxi and Private Hire  
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**Proposals put forward in the consultation document**

<b>Drivers</b>	
1	Additional licensing requirements for new drivers
2	Enhanced driving assessment for new drivers
3	All drivers to obtain the NVQ in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving
4	All drivers to display identification to be visible to passengers
5	No driver is to make a remark of a sexual nature or have any sexual contact in a licensed vehicle
<b>Vehicles</b>	
1	Replace the existing licence discs and red route signs with consolidated signage
2	Restrictions on what types of vehicles can be licensed as PHVs, and other measures to clarify the distinction between taxis and PHVs in London
<b>Operators</b>	
1	Restrictions on operating centres in late night venues and other shared premises
2	A return to assessing the status of planning permission before granting licences for operating centres
3	A commitment to comply with parking regulations in the area of the operating centre(s)
4	Restriction on the acceptance of bookings to a designated area in the licensed premises
5	An obligation to have arrangements in place to provide accessible vehicles when required (directly or by sub-contract)
6	Restrictions on small operators and operating centres in residential premises
7	A requirement that operators provide a landline number for accepting bookings
8	A requirement for a standard CRB check on applicants for an operator's licence
9	Restrictions on premises where an operator licence would be granted