

Transport for London

Surface Transport Panel

Subject: London Taxicard Scheme

Date: 22 October 2013

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Panel on the future of the Taxicard scheme.
- 1.2 The Panel is asked to note the paper.

2 Background

- 2.1 Taxicard is a door-to-door transport service for disabled and older people who experience barriers accessing public transport services. The scheme increases independence and mobility by providing subsidised fares for trips in licensed London taxis.
- 2.2 The scheme currently has around 108,000 members with a membership turnover of approximately 1,000 members per month. Members are allocated an annual budget of trips and pay a contribution to the fare. The scheme is a London boroughs scheme, administered by the London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee (LCTEC) and is currently financed jointly by all 31 London boroughs, the cities of London and Westminster (the participants) and TfL.
- 2.3 TfL has been part funding the scheme since 2001 with the objective of raising standards of service and ensuring pan London coverage. As such minimum eligibility and entitlement standards were a core aspect of the original 2001 arrangement.

3 Future

- 3.1 Following falling levels of demand, TfL re-evaluated the funding contribution its Business Plan anticipated for Taxicard and engaged in discussions with London Councils over the level of funding for the scheme going forward.
- 3.2 TfL met with London Councils in September 2012 and agreement was reached whereby TfL would pay LCTEC a fixed level of grant to the scheme for three financial years, 2013/14-2015/16. The baseline grant figure agreed was £9.4m per annum subject to an annual uplift to cover rises in taxi fares and tariffs. For 2013/14 there is also an agreed once only carry over of underspend from TfL's 2012/13 grant amounting to £1.2m, giving a total TfL 2013/14 grant of £10.7m and the participants' forecast total contribution of £1.7m.

- 3.3 The 31 participating boroughs and the cities of London and Westminster are responsible for providing top up funding and bear the risk of fluctuating demand going forward.
- 3.4 The current agreement between TfL and London Councils expires on 31 March 2016. TfL will enter into discussions with London Councils nearer the time to review requirements for the Taxicard scheme and future funding arrangements from April 2016.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Panel is asked to note the current developments and management arrangements in relation to the London Taxicard Scheme.

6 Contact

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