

REPORT: Regulatory Committee

DATE: 27 November 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Hackney Carriage Vehicle Unmet Demand Survey

WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the Committee on the progress of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle unmet demand survey.

2. RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members may recall that on 28 November 2018 they were asked to determine 3 applications for an additional 13 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences. The Committee resolved to refuse the applications.
- 3.2 One of the applicants appealed the decision of the Committee to the Crown Court and on 4 July 2019 the Judge at Chester Crown Court determined the following
- The appeal was allowed
 - Halton Borough Council to carry out a survey within 3 months
 - Halton Borough Council to pay the applicants costs
- 3.3 The Court was not satisfied that there was 'no significant unmet demand'. Equally, it did not decide that there was a significant unmet demand. Consequently, the Court referred the matter back to the Council to undertake an unmet demand survey.
- 3.4 It had been assumed by the applicant that if a significant unmet demand were to be identified any additional HCV Licences would be awarded to the applicant. The Council's representative successfully argued that this would not be the case. There had been two other applicants for additional licences, and as Halton Council does not operate a waiting list numerous others should be allowed an equal opportunity to be considered if additional licences were to be issued.

In other words, should it be found that there is a significant unmet demand the Council will be free to devise its own method for issuing any new plates.

4.0 THE SURVEY

4.1 Following the decision of the Court a company called Jacobs were engaged to undertake the Hackney Carriage Vehicle unmet demand survey. Work on the survey has commenced and the outcome of the survey will be reported to members as soon as it is finalised.

4.2 Jacobs have advised that the survey will include

- Rank observations
- Public consultation
- Written stakeholder consultation
- Data Analysis
- Final report

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.0 Policy implications will be dependent on the findings of the unmet demand survey.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

7.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

None

7.2 **Employment Learning and Skills in Halton**

N/A

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

N/A

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

8. RISK ANALYSIS

None

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality or diversity issues related to a review

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Crown Court Notification / Correspondence	Municipal Building	Kay Cleary Nick Wheeler