

Key Decision Required	No	In the Forward Plan	No
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CABINET

5 AUGUST 2016

REFERENCE REPORT FROM THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE

A.3 REGULARITY OF TAXI VEHICLE CHECKS

(Report prepared by Mark Westall)

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 1 June 2016 the Licencing Manager gave an overview of the scope of work that his team undertakes and some background towards the relationship that they have with the many Licensees and other local authorities, such as Essex Police and Essex Trading Standards. The Chairman of the Service Development and Delivery Committee had invited licensees from both the taxi trades and alcohol related trades to attend in order to give a balanced view regarding the licensing service that TDC delivers.

During the discussions it was noted by representatives of the taxi trades that currently TDC only offers one day per week (Tuesday) whereby taxi drivers can take their vehicle to the garage services delivered by TDC at Northbourne Depot in order to get the prerequisite vehicle checks and carry on working. It was also noted that sometimes the garage is very busy and that checks have to spill over until the following day. It is very important for taxi drivers, many of whom are self-employed, that they can keep their vehicle on the road where they can earn money. Dependant on timing a vehicle can sometimes not be used for more than a week whilst waiting for a slot to have a vehicle check where a vehicle is being changed for a new vehicle.. This can have a big impact on the financial security of a taxi driver.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET

Cabinet is now asked to consider the comments of the Service Development and Delivery Committee.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Licencing Manager explores the possibility of extending the number of days whereby Taxi vehicle checks can be undertaken.

That Cabinet **NOTE** the following comments:

- (b) That the Licencing General Purposes Sub-Committee is seeing less taxi drivers coming in front of them after being caught using their mobile phones whilst driving.

- (c) That the relationship between the TDC Licencing team and Licensees is very good and that the service is seen as good value for money.
- (d) That the Committee would investigate the possibility of a working party being set up to explore the safety of taxi drivers which would mean liaising with Community Safety; and
- (e) That the presentation had been excellent and very informative on a very complex subject.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- (a) It is recommended that the report be noted.