

Committee Resolution

At the Special Meeting, held on 19th May 2008, the Council's Regulatory Sub-Committee considered whether the Council should continue to apply a policy of numbers limitation to the Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licences which it issues.

Following consideration of a report by the Director of Regulatory Services and Public Protection and having regard to:-

- The Policy Guidance Document issued by the Department for Transport
- The results of the Council's own consultation exercise
- The demand surveys conducted in November 2007 and February 2008 and their conclusions.
- The verbal representations of those persons attending the meeting

The Regulatory Sub-Committee resolved:-

To maintain the current policy and continue to limit the number of Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licences issued on the grounds that there is no significant demand for the Services of Hackney Carriages within the City which remains unmet. Committee further resolved to request the Director of Regulatory Services and Public Protection to consider and determine any applications made, having full regard to that policy.

In reaching their decision Committee took into account:-

- the amount of regeneration that is currently taking place within the City and the effect it is having on available road space.
- Air quality policies which are implemented with a view to the reduction of traffic within the city centre.
- The legal case against Berwick Borough Council currently going through the Administrative Court which could have a bearing on the number of taxis operating in Newcastle.

Committee also noted central government's wish that councils abandon numbers limitation policies. Committee expressed the hope that the regeneration of the City would be complete when the numbers policy is again reviewed in 2011 and lack of available road space should not be an issue. At that stage different considerations may well apply.