



Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Wednesday 18 February 2015
Present:	Councillors J Crawford (Chair), I Chilvers, My Dyson, M Hobson and D Peart.
Also Present:	Councillors M Crane – Leader of the Council, R Sweeting, Mrs S Duckett, Mrs K McSherry and Mrs S Ryder.
Apologies for Absence:	Apologies were received from Councillors R Sayner and J Thurlow.
Officers Present:	Jonathan Lund – Deputy Chief Executive, Gillian Marshall – Solicitor to the Council, Michelle Dinsdale – Policy Officer and Palbinder Mann - Democratic Services Manager.
Press:	None
Public	None

91. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

92. CALL IN – DECISION E/14/67 – TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered a report from the Democratic Services Manager which outlined a call in for Executive decision E/14/67 which was the Taxi Licensing Policy.

Councillor R Sweeting presented the reasons behind the call in and explained that the signatories disagreed with the Executive's proposal over the split between wheelchair accessible and non-wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Councillor R Sweeting stated that the Licensing Committee had recommended split of 60% adapted vehicles and 40% unadapted however the Executive had decided to approve a 75/25% split. He explained that as there was no attendance from any member of the Licensing Committee at the Executive meeting where the decision was made, it was felt that the Executive had not heard all the reasoning behind the Licensing Committee's proposal.

The Leader of the Council explained that there had been no evidence presented by the Licensing Committee in argument of the 60/40% split. The Committee was informed that in compiling the policy, officers had consulted both disabled groups and taxi drivers who had both supported the 75/25% split. The Leader of the Council reiterated that the Council had a responsibility in supporting disabled people. It was explained that the current policy was to move to 100% adapted vehicles over time and that the consultation showed that the 75/25 ratio currently in operation on the ground was about right.

The Committee were informed that members of the Licensing Committee had heard anecdotal evidence that some disabled customers wished to travel in saloon vehicles rather than specific wheelchair accessible vehicles. It was stated that this was due to the step into saloon vehicles being lower.

The Committee were of the view that the Licensing Committee should be given an opportunity to present further evidence to support their view that a 60/40 ratio was the most appropriate. As a consequence they agreed to refer the matter, back to the Executive for reconsideration and invited the Licensing Committee to produce and present its further evidence to the Executive.

RESOLVED:

To allow the Licensing Committee to produce and present further evidence in relation to the Taxi Licensing policy and to refer the decision back to the Executive for reconsideration alongside the further evidence.

The meeting closed at 5.40pm