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## **Licensing and Protection Panel**

**Report of the meeting held on 5th November 2008**

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### **Matters for Information**

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#### **5. REVIEW OF POLICY TO LIMIT HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCES**

The Panel has agreed that consultation should be undertaken to consider the delimitation of licensed hackney carriage numbers in Huntingdonshire.

The Council is now in a minority of authorities that restrict the issue of hackney carriage licences on the basis that there is no significant unmet public demand in the area. In response to an Office of Fair Trading recommendation that local authorities should not retain the powers to restrict numbers, the Government has agreed that it is wrong in principle to restrict entry to the market for those who meet the relevant criteria but they have left this to the discretion of local authorities. As another survey to gauge unmet demand is now due at an estimated cost of £20,000, if the present restriction of 44 licences is to be maintained, the Panel feels it an appropriate time to consider delimitation and at the same time new licences to be issued for wheelchair accessible vehicles only.

The Panel will be considering the matter further in the light of the replies to the consultation exercise.

#### **6. LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES, PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS**

The Panel has approved, subject to any minor drafting changes, revised and updated licence conditions relating to Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators. Revisions to the conditions pertaining to licensed drivers are in the process of being prepared but will require amendment to the current hackney carriage byelaws.

#### **7. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

The Panel has approved a revised table of hackney carriage fares to be advertised and to come into effect from 12th January 2009. The fares were last reviewed in October 2007 and a new tariff has been proposed to address concerns raised by the taxi trade over the cost of short journeys and recent increases in fuel costs.

J M Sadler  
Chairman