

APPENDIX G
TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES LICENSING POLICY

TAXI AND PHVs LICENSING POLICIES

LTP Guidance requires local policies relating to taxi and PHV services to be explained, including explanations or justifications of any restrictions imposed on numbers of licenses by authorities in the LTP area.

The Department for Transport has recently consulted on draft Best Practice Guidance for local taxi and PHV licensing, in response to the OFT report *“The regulation of licensed taxis and PHV services in the UK”*. The Department for Transport has also asked local licensing authorities imposing quantity controls on the number of taxis and PHVs to review their policies, with particular emphasis on consumers.

Table G.1 outlines local policies relating to taxis and PHVs and current positions in relation to policy reviews.

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Table G.1 Taxis and PHVs – Local Policies

District authority	Position statement (February 2006)	Local policies	Restrictions imposed on numbers of licenses	
			Restriction	Explanation / justification
Bradford	A report will be submitted to the Regulatory Committee to set out the various options for consideration from de-regulation to managed growth. A decision will be taken and subsequently published to comply with central government requirements.	Currently have 224 licences.	Restrictions currently in place.	Last unmet demand survey carried out two years ago established that there was no unmet demand and recommended extra 10 plates issued for wheelchair accessible vehicles only.
Calderdale	No change to existing policy is proposed.	8 zones in Calderdale (Halifax and 7 other zones). Decision taken in 2000 not to issue any more licences in Halifax. In the other 7 zones anyone can apply for a licence as long as the vehicle is wheelchair accessible (purpose built or approved conversion).	No licences issued for the Halifax zone.	
Kirklees	The Council is considering a report from consultants which shows that there is no significant unmet demand for taxis in Kirklees and hence no automatic need to issue further plates. The Council is likely to reach a considered review on the report early in 2006.	224 hackney carriage licences valid across Kirklees. The Council is a first phase authority considering their approach to wheelchair accessibility requirements over the period 2010 to 2020.	Number of plates under consideration (possible outcome that any additional plates would be linked to wheelchair accessibility)	Currently no significant unmet demand – the position will be reviewed in 2008/09.

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Leeds	Existing licensing policies have recently been reviewed by Scrutiny Board and the decision taken that there is to be no change over the next two years. However during this time a survey will be undertaken to establish if there is any unmet demand and will also take account of any impacts of the new licensing reform act. A review of the number and location of taxi ranks is also underway.	537 vehicles currently licensed. No plans to issue any more licences over the next two years.	No plans to issue any more licences over the next two years.	
Wakefield	Consultants have undertaken a survey to investigate potential unmet demand and have provided a number of recommendations. A final decision has yet to be taken by the Council and a report is expected to go to a Committee in February 2006 with a range of options for consideration.	Wakefield continues to impose a taxi numbers control.		

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