



General Purposes Committee  
Tuesday 5 June 2012  
Item No 7(f)

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982  
Survey of the Demand Taxis in Midlothian.**

**Report by Director, Corporate Resources**

**1 Purpose of Report**

To appraise the Committee of the impending need to carry out a survey of the demand for taxis.

**2 Background**

Currently, the Council will refuse to grant any (new) applications for Taxi Licences as there is no significant demand for the services of taxis in Midlothian which is unmet; and is bound to review that policy from time to time. The period for such a review is not laid down in statute. It is essential that an independent survey be carried out.

In 2009, an independent survey was carried out by :-

- (a) face to face interviews at Stances and Supermarkets;
- (b) face to face interviews at potential Taxi Stance;
- (c) observational studies at existing Taxi Stances;
- (d) focus groups or Citizen Panel reviews; and
- (e) consideration of comments by the Trade.

Best practice Guidance was taken into account.

**3 Review of Decision**

It is appropriate from time to time to review the decision. The last study was carried out at a cost of £600 by East House Research, 44 Seafeld Road, Broughty Ferry DD5 3AN.

**4 Report Implications**

**Resource**

The implications arising from this report relate to the cost of the survey. This cost will be recovered from the Trade through application fees in accordance with the legislation.

## **Risk**

Failure to carry out an independent survey will potentially leave the Council open to challenge in the Court should any application be refused on the basis of inadequate, incomplete or dated information. Failure to act thereafter may have an effect on public safety.

## **Policy**

As indicated the report is linked to licensing policy.

## **Consultation**

No consultations have yet taken place.

## **Equalities**

The report will provide for equality.

## **Sustainability**

The reports relates to a study that must be completed. The exercise will have to be repeated in another two to three years. Should the Council refuse any applications, the information generated (and any up-to-date information) will inform the process. Thereby, any challenges in the Courts are likely to be able to be resisted.

## **5**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee agree, in principle, that the survey be carried out and remit the detailed arrangements to the Director, Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chair.

**29 May 2012**

Contact Person  
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Background Papers – Best Practice Guidance.