

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

E3522

**Review of Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey Report 2023**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
<b>The Issue</b>	<p>The Council currently regulates the number of Hackney Carriage Proprietor (vehicle) Licences the Council issues for the city of Bath. Because of this the Council is under a duty to carry out a review of any significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage services every three years. This report requests Members to consider the outcome of the Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey (the Survey) carried out by independent consultants in 2023 and, if necessary, make recommendations on the findings to the Cabinet Member. The main recommendation from this report suggests that there is no significant unmet demand and that the number of licenses should remain the same.</p>
<b>Decision Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>The decision</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) that the number of vehicle licences in Zone 1 remains at 125.</li><li>b) that the limitation policy remains in place.</li></ul>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The findings of the independent report indicate no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage services in the City of Bath</p>
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	<p>Administration and compliance will be met from within existing resources funded by the licence fee.</p> <p>The cost of future unmet demand surveys required to help review the continuation or otherwise of a limitation policy, will be in the region of £10,500. The cost of carrying out the survey is covered by the annual licence fee for Hackney Carriages licenses in Zone 1.</p>
<b>Issues considered</b>	<p>Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Other Legal Considerations</p>

<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	Trade Consultation & affected stakeholders, End user on street surveys. Licensing Committee. Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	Independent survey of affected stakeholders including on street interviews. All affected members of trade invited to participate and provide views. Observations of public rank usage and user surveys. Affected stakeholders invited to comment by email and telephone contacts.
<b>Other options considered</b>	<p>To partially delimit: Case law demonstrates that it would be feasible to issue batches of licences at a time which would allow a Council to assess the impact of each tranche and decide whether there is significant unmet demand. This option has been rejected as such assessments would require further budget and may result in periods of uncertainty within the trade and elsewhere.</p> <p>To delimit altogether: This option has been rejected as the removal of the current limitation policy could result in a legal challenge from the existing vehicle licence holders considering the findings of the most recent survey.</p>
<b>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:</b>	None
<b>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</b>	None

<b>Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s</b>	Councillor Tim Ball Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
<b>Date of Signature</b>	11th March 2023

**Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision**