

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Results of consultation on overprovision of private hire cars and limitation of taxis policies – Proposals agreed – Instruction to Director of Legal and Administration.

6 With reference to the minutes of 15th January 2025 (Print 6, page 114) instructing the Director of Legal and Administration to undertake a public consultation on the demand for taxi and private hire car services in the city and whether this authority should continue to have policies limiting the number of such licensed vehicles and to report back on the findings, there was submitted a report by the Director of Legal and Administration providing the responses received on the matter,

- (1) advising that
 - (a) the consultation was carried out in the form of a survey hosted on the Council's consultation hub between 19th March and 28th May 2025 and sought to capture views from the existing taxi and private hire car trade members as well as the public more generally, and from those involved in the city's late night economy;
 - (b) the consultation survey was promoted through the Council's social media channels as well as being brought to the attention of taxi and private hire car booking offices, trade groups and various partners and organisations, as detailed in the report;
 - (c) whilst responses to the online survey were in favour of retaining the existing policies and had indicated that respondents did not consider that either policy had a negative impact on the availability of taxis or private hire cars, the written responses submitted by email were more mixed and those responses by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and the City Centre Task Force had pointed to concerns regarding the growing evidence of unmet transport needs, especially in the city centre and during peak demand periods;
 - (d) given the clear conflict in views and the need for licensing policies to be evidence based, it was recommended to undertake a full independent review of both the Limitation of Taxi Licences Policy and the Private Hire Car Licence Overprovision Policy, and that the responses to the online survey and the written responses should be shared with the organisation commissioned to undertake the review; and
 - (e) consideration should be given to extend the scope of the independent review to consider a number of the issues that were raised in the consultation responses, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) detailing in the appendices to the report, the email responses received and the questions asked as part of the online survey together with an analysis of the responses and a full list of the comments made to the online survey.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) noted the report; and
- (ii) instructed the Director of Legal and Administration to conduct a full independent review of both the Limitation of Taxi Licences Policy and the Private Hire Car Licence Overprovision Policy, to include the consideration of the following additional matters:-
 - (A) Competition and pricing;
 - (B) Consumer attitudes and behaviour in relation to availability of taxis and private hire cars as late night transport options, particularly in the city centre;
 - (C) Impact on the wider city centre economy;
 - (D) Safety standards of vehicles;
 - (E) Comparison with other cities across the UK;
 - (F) Impact on operator and driver earnings and the ability to attract new entrants; and
 - (G) Whether other barriers existed to attracting new entrants to the trade.