

Notice of meeting and agenda

Regulatory Committee

10.00 am, Wednesday, 19 February 2014

Dean of Guild Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Contact

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1. Order of business

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Deputations

- 3.1 If any

4. Minutes

- 4.1 None

5. Key decisions forward plan

- 5.1 None

6. Business bulletin

- 6.1 None

7. Executive decisions

- 7.1 Taxi Demand Survey Update – report by the Director of Services for Communities (circulated)

8. Routine decisions

- 8.1 None

9. Motions

- 9.1 None

Carol Campbell

Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance

Committee Members

Councillors Barrie (Convener), Blacklock (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Burgess, Cairns, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Heslop and Redpath.

Information about the Regulatory Committee

The Regulatory Committee consists of 9 Councillors and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council. The Regulatory Committee usually meets every eight weeks.

The Regulatory Committee usually meets in the Dean of Guild Room in the City Chambers on the High Street in Edinburgh. There is a seated public gallery and the meeting is open to all members of the public.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Aileen McGregor, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court, Business Centre 2.1, 4 East Market Street Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel 0131 529 4325, e-mail aileen.mcgregoer@edinburgh.gov.uk

A copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol.

For remaining items of business likely to be considered in private, see separate agenda.

Regulatory Committee

10am, Wednesday, 19 February 2014

Taxi Demand Survey Update

Item number	7.1
Report number	
Wards	Citywide

Links

Coalition pledges	P28
Council outcomes	CO8
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

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Executive summary

Taxi Demand Survey Update

Summary

To update Committee on the current demand for taxis after the completion of an interim survey.

Recommendations

- 1 Committee is asked to:
 - a) endorse the analysis attached at [Appendix 1](#).
 - b) use the analysis attached as [Appendix 1](#) as a basis on which to determine the current demand for taxis within the city, and agree that there is no unmet demand at this time.
 - c) remit this report to the Licensing Sub-Committee for immediate use when determining applications for new taxi licences.

Measures of success

That the city has sufficient taxis to meet the customer demand placed upon the fleet.

Financial impact

The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1 April 2013. Any reduction in income will be required to be absorbed by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget.

The cost of the survey was contained within the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget.

Equalities impact

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

Any increase in the taxi fleet by increasing the number of licences issued may have an impact on the environment within the city, potentially including levels of pollution.

Consultation and engagement

Not applicable.

Background reading / external references

[Restriction of Taxi Numbers In Edinburgh: report to full Council 23 August 2007.](#)

[Regulatory Committee Work plan 16 November 2012](#)

[Minute of Regulatory Committee 3 May 2013](#)

Halcrow Report (April 2013) (Appendix to report submitted to [Regulatory Committee of 3 May 13](#) – Item 7.4)

Taxi Demand Survey Update

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a policy of limiting the number of taxi licences issued within the city, utilising the powers available to it under Section 10 (3) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. This power can only be used if the Council is satisfied that there is no unmet 'significant demand' for taxis. The Council is required to keep this position under regular review.
- 1.2 At the Regulatory Committee on 3 May 2013 Committee agreed to the conclusions of a full demand survey carried out by Halcrow Ltd. Additionally Committee agreed to commission consultants to review the provision of taxis within the city at regulator intervals, and specifically to identify whether there is any 'significant unmet demand' for taxis.
- 1.3 Count on Us Ltd was commissioned to undertake this work and the research took place in November and December 2013. Attached at Appendix 1 is a summary analysis of the Count on Us Ltd report.

2. Main report

- 2.1 The Council acts as a Licensing Authority for the purpose of licensing taxis within the city of Edinburgh. The Council has adopted a policy of limiting the number of taxi licences issued where there is no evidence of significant unmet demand. At present there are 1316 licences for taxis within the city. All applications for taxi licences are currently referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for a hearing and decision.
- 2.2 The policy of restricting the number of taxi licences within the city attracts considerable debate. One view generally held by taxi licence holders is strongly in favour of retaining the restriction on licence numbers, on the grounds that overprovision would harm the viability of the trade. There are other groups which strongly argue that the policy is a restraint on trade, and seek the removal of the restriction. Typically those applicants are people who do not currently have a taxi licence, but wish to obtain one, or licensed taxi drivers who wish to operate their own taxi as opposed to driving shifts in taxis licensed by others.
- 2.3 The restriction policy has regularly been challenged by legal action. This takes the form of appeals to the Sheriff against decisions of the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse applications for taxi licences. These decisions have made it

clear that in order to maintain a restriction the Council must regularly inform itself on provision, and specifically on whether there is any unmet demand.

- 2.4 The Scottish Government has also issued guidance for licensing authorities which operate a limitation policy. The guidance clearly indicates that the level of unmet demand must be kept under regular review.
- 2.5 The Count on Us Ltd research provides Committee with an up to date review of the level of demand for taxis in the city. If accepted, this will form the basis on which individual licences will be considered. Research to update the position with regard to unmet demand will continue to be carried out every six months.
- 2.6 The Count on Us Ltd report shows that overall there is no evidence of significant unmet demand. The Council has received no complaints or other feedback about the availability of taxis within the city.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Committee is asked to:
 - a) endorse the analysis attached at [Appendix 1](#).
 - b) use the analysis attached as [Appendix 1](#) as a basis on which to determine the current demand for taxis within the city, and notes that there is no unmet demand at this time.
 - c) remit this report to the Licensing Sub-Committee for immediate use when determining applications for new taxi licenses.

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

Links

Coalition pledges	P28 - Further strengthen our links with the business community by developing and implementing strategies to promote and protect the economic well being of the City
Council outcomes	CO8 - Edinburgh's economy creates and sustains job opportunities
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 - Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Taxi Monitoring Report Analysis Appendix 2 - Count on Us Ltd Edinburgh Taxi Rank observations November 2013

TAXI MONITORING REPORT ANALYSIS

Assessment of Current Demand for Taxi Services in Edinburgh - November 2013

This report has been prepared on behalf of the Director of Services for Communities to assist members of the Licensing Sub-Committee in relation to applications for new taxi licences which may be considered at their meeting on 19 February 2014.

Stance observations indicate that there is no significant unmet demand for taxi services at this time.

Background

1. In April 2013, Halcrow Group Limited, transportation consultants, were commissioned to carry out a survey on the demand for taxi services in the city. Halcrow reported on rank observations and interviews and surveys conducted between February and March 2013. Halcrow concluded there was no unmet demand at that time.
2. The conclusions of the Halcrow report were accepted by the Council's Regulatory Committee on 3 May 2013. Large scale surveys by consultants such as Halcrow are obtained every three years.
3. To provide demand information between the large scale surveys, smaller rank observations surveys are carried out by Count on Us Ltd. The foregoing results are collated onto Taxi Monitoring Reports including other information such as complaints from the public as to lack of taxis.

Stance Observation Survey

4. Count on Us Ltd provided the results of stance surveys carried out at least twice at each location in November 2013. A selection of representative ranks was observed on different days and at different times. The ranks selected for observation for both periods are broken down into 14 located within or immediately around the city centre, and four being located outwith the city centre. A total of 1282 passengers were observed from the 18 ranks monitored. The ranks observed had 2051 taxi hires over the observation period.
5. There are currently 82 taxi stances located throughout the city with a combined capacity for 293 waiting taxis. A full list of the taxi stances within the city is shown below. The stances observed make up 22% of the overall stances within the city.

6. The latest Count on Us Ltd stance observations indicate average pedestrian waiting times at a low of 0 seconds and a high of 9 minutes 27 seconds. The average waiting time overall was 26 seconds.

Period of Observation	Number of Passengers	Total Number of Taxi Hires	Percentage Passengers to Taxi Hires
November 2013	1282	2051	63%

Period of Observation	Number of Passengers	Total average time of recorded waits	Average Passenger Wait Time	Longest Wait Time Observed
November 2013	1282	00:05:15	00:00:26	00:09:27

Additional Information

7. In the last year, no complaints from members of the public about a lack of taxis were received by the Licensing Team or the Police.

Conclusions

8. The stance observations indicate that most passengers at ranks were able to obtain a taxi immediately. The average time a passenger had to wait was 26 seconds.
9. Passengers obtaining taxis at the ranks observed could do so in less than a minute during the daytime.
10. Some delays occurred during peak times at weekends. The longest waiting time during these hours was observed as being 9 minutes 27 seconds at Holyrood Road (observation hours 16:00 – 18:00).
11. Councils are permitted to take a broad view of the demand for taxis over the week. From the information provided by Count on Us Ltd from the ranks observed, there is no significant unmet demand for taxi services at this time.

Taxi Stances

	STREET	HOURS OF APPOINTMENT	LOCATION	NO. OF TAXIS
1	Arboretum Place	24 hrs	North of entrance to Royal Botanical Gardens	3
2	Blair Street	1830 to 0700	W side - at Cowgate	4
3	Boswall Parkway	24 hrs	N side - W of roundabout with Pilton Drive	3
4	Canongate	24 hrs	N side - E end	5
5	Castle Street	24 hrs	W side - S of George Street	4
6	Chambers Street	24 hrs	S side - at new Museum Building - W end	2
7	Charlotte Square	24 hrs	W side - opposite Register House	4
8	Cluny Avenue	24 hrs	S side - W end	3
9	Commercial Street	24 hrs	N side - on bridge over Water of Leith	4
10	Cultins Road / Hermiston Gait Roundabout link	24 hrs	S side - opposite south entrance to Edinburgh Park Railway Station	3
11	Drumbrae Drive (bus term)	24 hrs	S side - E end	2
12	Drumbrae South (service rd)	24 hrs	W side	3
13	Dundas Street	24 hrs	E side - S of Eyre Place	8
14	East Fountainbridge	0830 to 1830	S side - lay-by at junction with Earl Grey Street	3
15	Elder Street	24 hrs	E side - 10 m S of Multrees Walk	3
16	Falcon Avenue	24 hrs	S side - W end	1
17	Fettes Avenue	24 hrs	E side - S end	2
18	Fountainbridge	24 hrs	N side - E of Gardner's Crescent	4
19	Frederick Street	24 hrs	S end - at closure of the junction with Princes Street	5
20	George IV Bridge*	24 hrs except Mon-Fri 0730-0930, 1600-1830	E side - on bridge over Cowgate	4
21	George Street (16)	24 hrs	S side - E end	6
22	George Street (52)*	24 hrs	S side - at Assembly Rooms	3
23	George Street (63)	24 hrs	N side	4
24	George Street (82)	24 hrs	S side	5
25	George Street (123)	1830 to 0730	N side	6
26	Gracemount Drive	24 hrs	W side - at supermarket	3
27	Granton Square	24 hrs	W side - on centre of square	2
28	Grassmarket	24 hrs	West Bow	2
29	Grassmarket	24 hrs	Outside The Apex International Hotel	3
30	Greenbank Drive	24 hrs	S side - entrance to City Hospital	3
31	Grosvenor Street	24 hrs	E side - Haymarket end	3
32	Great Junction Street	24 hrs except Mon-Fri 0730-0930, 1600-1830	N Side - opposite Junction Place	2
33	Hanover Street	24 hrs	W side - Princes Street end	4
34	High Street	24 hrs	S side - Radisson Hotel	3
35	Holyrood Road	24 hrs	W side - outside The Scotman building	4
36	Home Street	1830 to 0730	E side - at the clock at Tollcross	2
37	Home Street	1830 to 0730	W side - at Cameo Cinema	2
38	Hope Street	24 hrs	E side - between Charlotte Square and Hope Street Lane	6
39	Lady Road	24 hrs	E of Cameron Toll entrance	7
40	Lauriston Place (East)	24 hrs	N side - E of George Herriot's	5
41	Lauriston Place (West)	24 hrs	N side - W of George Herriot's	5
42	Lauriston Place (Tollcross)	0730 to 1830 Mon-Sat	N side in lay-by near Tollcross	3
43	Lawnmarket	24 hrs	S side - E of Upper Bow	4
44	Leith Street	24 hrs	W side - N of Greenside Row	2

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	STREET	HOURS OF APPOINTMENT	LOCATION	NO. OF TAXIS
45	Leith Walk (310)	24 hrs	W side – 41m S of Arthur Street	2
46	Leith Walk (Antigua Street)	1830 to 0700	W side at roundabout	4
47	Leith Walk (Baxters Place)	24 hrs	E side – S of London Road roundabout	4
48	Leith Walk (Foot)	24 hrs	W side - foot of Leith Walk	6
49	Leith Walk (Omni)	24 hrs	E side in lay-by outside Omni Centre	2
50	Leven Street	1830 to 0730	E side - at King's Theatre	2
51	Little France Crescent	24 hrs	50m SE of Main Entrance to New RI	8
52	London Road East	24 hrs	N side - Meadowbank Stadium	2
53	London Road West	24 hrs except Mon-Fri 0730-0930, 1600-1830	S side - Meadowbank Stadium	2
54	Lothian Road	24 hrs	W side - at Festival Square	5
55	Lothian Road	24 hrs	W side - at Festival Square (feeder for the above)	5
56	Manor Place	24 hrs	NW side - off West Maitland Street	2
57	Merchiston Place	24 hrs	N side - off Bruntsfield Place	2
58	Morningside Road	24 hrs	W side in lay-by opposite Steel's Place	2
59	Morrison Street	24 hrs	N side - at EICC	3
60	Morrison Street (feeder)	1800 to 0700	West of above stance	4
61	Murrayfield Avenue	24 hrs	W side - off Roseburn Terrace	2
62	Nicolson Square	24 hrs	N side of square opposite from kerb	9
63	North Bridge (East)	24 hrs	E side - near High Street	2
64	North Bridge (West)	24 hrs	W side - near High Street	2
65	North Saint Andrew Street	24 hrs	E side	4
66	North West Circus Place	24 hrs	N side - Junction east of Circus Lane	2
67	Oxgangs Street	24 hrs	S side - at Oxgangs Road North	2
68	Portobello High Street	24 hrs	SW side - directly adjacent to Rosefield Avenue	2
69	Queensferry Street	24 hrs	E-Side – 42m northwest of centerline of Charlotte Lane	4
70	Raeburn Place	0700 to 1900	Opposite and East of Raeburn St	3
71	Restalrig Road South	24 hrs	W side - S of Sleigh Drive roundabout	2
72	Rutland Street	24 hrs	N side - opposite Caledonian Hotel	5
73	Sciennes Road	24 hrs	S side - opposite Sylvan Place	2
74	South Saint Andrew Square	24 hrs	S side – 26m east of South St David Street	6
75	South Saint Andrew Street	24 hrs	W side – north of Meuse Lane	7
76	Teviot Place	24 hrs	S side - Medical School	4
77	Warrender Park Road	24 hrs	S Side - E of junction with Marchmont Road	2
78	Waterloo Place	24 hrs	E side – 50 east of Leith Street	5
79	Waverley Bridge	24 hrs	W side	5
80	Wester Hailes Centre (A)	24 hrs	NE side - Murrayburn Gate	2
81	Wester Hailes Centre (B)	24 hrs	NE side - Murrayburn Gate	5
82	West Pilton Crescent	24 hrs	N side - off Pennywell Road	2

22 February 2012

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Appendix 2
Count on Us Ltd - Edinburgh Taxi Rank Observations
November 2012

SITE NUMBER	PRIORITY	STREET	HOURS OF APPOINTMENT	LOCATION	NO. OF TAXIS	WEEKDAY	DATE	SURVEY HOURS	Total Taxis	Average Taxi wait time	Total Peds	Average Ped Waiting Time
5	2	Castle Street	24 hrs	W side – S of George Street	4	Thursday	21-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	29	00:24:22	10	00:00:00
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	35	00:11:58	13	00:00:02
TOTAL									64	00:18:10	23	00:00:01
8	2	Cluny Avenue	24 hrs	S side - W end	3	Thursday	21-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	1	00:03:00	0	00:00:00
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	0	00:00:00	0	00:00:00
TOTAL									1	00:01:30	0	00:00:00
13	1	Dundas Street	24 hrs	E side - S of Eyre Place	8	Thursday	21-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	52	00:13:34	23	00:00:00
						Friday	22-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	97	00:05:30	69	00:00:01
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	35	00:09:13	17	00:00:03
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	15	00:01:44	9	00:07:33
TOTAL									199	00:07:30	118	00:01:54
18	2	Frederick Street	24 hrs	S end – at closure of the junction with Princes Street	5	Friday	22-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	30	00:13:20	17	00:00:15
						Friday	22-Nov-13	21:00 - 23:00	40	00:06:16	27	00:00:06
TOTAL									70	00:09:48	44	00:00:11
27	2	Grassmarket	24 hrs	Outside The Apex International Hotel	3	Saturday	16-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	7	00:00:54	3	00:00:00
						Tuesday	19-Nov-13	24:00 - 02:00	21	00:04:31	3	00:00:00
TOTAL									28	00:02:42	6	00:00:00

29	2	Grosvenor Street	24 hrs	E side - Haymarket end	3	Wednesday	20-Nov-13	24:00 - 02:00	8	00:03:03	6	00:00:00
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	10	00:01:24	7	00:00:00
TOTAL									18	00:02:13	13	00:00:00
31	1	Hanover Street	24 hrs	W side - Princes Street end	4	Friday	15-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	54	00:04:29	49	00:00:24
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	50	00:11:07	42	00:00:10
TOTAL									104	00:07:48	91	00:00:17
32	1	High Street	24 hrs	S side - Radisson Hotel	3	Friday	15-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	47	00:08:44	29	00:00:00
						Friday	15-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	62	00:05:09	52	00:00:01
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	249	00:01:55	147	00:00:27
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	02:00 - 04:00	67	00:08:41	0	00:00:00
						Tuesday	19-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	44	00:02:48	35	00:00:49
						Wednesday	20-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	52	00:11:01	38	00:00:02
TOTAL									521	00:06:23	301	00:00:13
33	2	Holyrood Road	24 hrs	W side – outside The Scotman building	4	Wednesday	20-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	18	00:10:06	11	00:00:03
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	2	00:00:48	2	00:09:27
TOTAL									20	00:05:27	13	00:04:45
48	1	Little France Crescent	24 hrs	50m SE of Main Entrance to New RI	8	Wednesday	20-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	33	00:26:43	15	00:00:00
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	16	00:11:04	7	00:00:35

TOTAL										49	00:18:54	22	00:00:18
51	1	Lothian Road	24 hrs	W side - at Festival Square	5	Friday	15-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	61	00:17:53	22	00:00:00	
						Friday	15-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	136	00:02:08	79	00:00:47	
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	02:00 - 04:00	82	00:06:00	60	00:00:10	
						Tuesday	19-Nov-13	03:00 - 05:00	3	00:07:28	0	00:00:00	
						Wednesday	20-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	54	00:18:06	26	00:00:00	
TOTAL										336	00:10:19	187	00:00:11
54	2	Morningside Road	24 hrs	W side in lay-by opposite Steel's Place	2	Wednesday	20-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	16	00:08:13	9	00:00:44	
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	0	00:00:00	0	00:00:00	
TOTAL										16	00:04:07	9	00:00:22
55	1	Morrison Street	24 hrs	N side - at EICC	3	Friday	22-Nov-13	13:00 - 15:00	43	00:08:19	21	00:00:09	
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	01:00 - 03:00	2	00:01:13	1	00:00:00	
TOTAL										45	00:04:46	22	00:00:04
58	2	Nicolson Square	24 hrs	N side of square opposite from kerb	9	Thursday	21-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	8	00:13:12	4	00:00:00	
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	24:00 - 02:00	0	00:00:00	0	00:00:00	
TOTAL										8	00:06:36	4	00:00:00
65	1	Queensferry Street	24 hrs	E-Side – 42m northwest of centerline of Charlotte Lane	4	Saturday	16-Nov-13	21:00 - 23:00	3	00:04:04	0	00:00:00	
						Monday	18-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	19	00:06:59	7	00:00:32	

TOTAL										22	00:05:31	7	00:00:16
68	1	Rutland Street	24 hrs	N side - opposite Caledonian Hotel	5	Saturday	16-Nov-13	02:00 - 04:00	56	00:02:42	44	00:00:15	
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	34	00:16:31	25	00:00:00	
						Monday	18-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	29	00:10:06	16	00:00:10	
						Tuesday	19-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	18	00:03:49	9	00:00:03	
TOTAL										137	00:08:17	94	00:00:07
74	1	Waverley Bridge	24 hrs	W side	5	Friday	15-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	122	00:04:47	106	00:00:11	
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	21:00 - 23:00	16	00:01:49	16	00:01:39	
						Saturday	16-Nov-13	03:00 - 05:00	103	00:08:23	81	00:00:00	
						Monday	18-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	74	00:10:15	58	00:00:00	
TOTAL										315	00:06:19	261	00:00:28
76	1	Wester Hailes Centre (B)	24 hrs	NE side - Murrayburn Gate	5	Tuesday	19-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	19	00:02:04	15	00:00:37	
						Thursday	21-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	38	00:12:22	22	00:00:00	
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	12:00 - 14:00	25	00:04:18	18	00:01:24	
						Saturday	23-Nov-13	16:00 - 18:00	16	00:02:29	10	00:01:17	
TOTAL										98	00:14:16	67	00:00:03

Total Average Peds	00:00:31
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