

Subject: Taxi and Private Hire Services

Report to: Transport Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 15 October 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report asks Transport Committee Members to note the findings of recent meetings with private hire operators and correspondence with the Deputy Mayor for Transport.

2. Recommendation

2.1 **That the Committee notes:**

- (a) **A letter from the Deputy Mayor for Transport, following up the discussion at the Committee's meeting on 8 July 2015, including an update from Transport for London on progress implementing the recommendations of the Committee's report, *Future Proof*;**
- (b) **The note of a meeting of party Group Lead Members with representatives of Uber London Limited; and**
- (c) **The note of a meeting of party Group Lead Members with representatives of Addison Lee Limited.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee published a report on London's taxi and private hire services, *Future Proof*, in December 2014, setting out recommendations for the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) on how to improve services for passengers.¹
- 3.2 At its meeting on 8 July 2015 the Committee met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Isabel Dedring, and Leon Daniels and Garrett Emmerson of TfL, to discuss progress with implementation of the recommendations. The Committee requested further information following the meeting, including copies of correspondence between TfL and Uber London Limited in relation to the company's conviction for permitting a vehicle without insurance.

¹ The report is available to download at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/future-proof-taxi-and-private-hire-services-in-london>

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 On 30 September 2015, Transport for London launched a consultation on proposals for amending private hire regulation, arising out of the Private Hire Regulations Review.² Alongside the consultation, TfL published a provisional strategy for London's taxi and private hire services, fulfilling one of the key recommendations of the Committee's 2014 report.³ It is recommended that Members agree to delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead members, to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee.
- 4.2 Isabel Dedring wrote to the Committee on 15 September 2015, following up the request for information made at the Committee's 8 July meeting. The letter included an update from TfL on progress implementing the Committee's *Future Proof* recommendations. The letter is attached at **Appendix 1**. Correspondence between TfL and Uber in relation to the company's conviction for permitting a vehicle without insurance was also provided to the Committee in confidence. In summary, the correspondence consists of:
- A letter from TfL to Uber on 23 December 2014, notifying the company that TfL was reviewing what action was required in respect of Uber's private hire licence.
 - A reply from Uber on 5 January 2015, summarising business practices and setting out steps taken by the company in response to this issue.
 - A reply from TfL on 3 February 2015, confirming Uber's operator licence would not be revoked or suspended.
- 4.3 On 28 July 2015, party Group Lead Members met with Jo Bertram and Andrew Byrne of Uber London Limited. A note of this meeting is attached at **Appendix 2**. On 14 July 2015, party Group Lead Members met with Dominick Moxon-Tritsch, Michael Galvin and John Young of Addison Lee Limited. A note of this meeting is attached to **Appendix 3**.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Letter from Deputy Mayor for Transport

Appendix 2 – Note of meeting with Uber London Limited

Appendix 3 – Note of meeting with Addison Lee Limited

² TfL's consultation document is available here: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/tph/private-hire-proposals>

³ The strategy is available here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/taxi-and-private-hire-strategy2.pdf>

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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