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## **Secretariat memorandum**

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Agenda item : 8 (d)

AT023

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### **Taxi safety update**

#### **1 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To update members on the progress on securing improvements to safety of Taxi passengers

#### **2 Background**

Members will know that following the Worboys' case we have raised the issue of safety of Taxi passengers with the Public Carriage Office (PCO).

#### **3 Update**

- 3.1 Following much discussion we concluded that changes could be made that would improve safety for passengers, although none of our suggestions have any direct link with the Worboys case.
- 3.2 London TravelWatch agreed four changes would be desirable :
  - 3.2.1 A post to be created within the PCO with full-time responsibility liaising with the Metropolitan Police has been approved.
  - 3.2.2 Medicals to be carried out every nine years rather than the current arrangement of a medical when the driver starts to trade and then another medical once they reach 50. This is being progressed with a view to implementation.
  - 3.2.3 Drivers to be required to display photo ID in their cabs. This is being progressed, it is expected that a photograph and identity number will be displayed in a visible location.
  - 3.2.4 A poster to be displayed in a prominent location clearly stating how passengers can complain to the PCO. This proposal has been dropped by Transport for London (TfL) following consultation. TfL tell us they think the insubstantial sticker located on the Taxi's side window is sufficient. We do not accept this and are pursuing the matter with the Managing Director, Surface Transport.

#### **4 Equalities and inclusion implications**

- 4.1 This issue is a general one for many Taxi passengers, however women are likely to feel more vulnerable when they are on their own in a Taxi.

#### **5 Legal powers**

- 5.1 Section 248 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 places upon London TravelWatch (as the London Transport Users Committee) a duty to consider - and where it appears to the Committee to be desirable, to make recommendations with respect to - any matter affecting the functions of the Greater London Authority or Transport for London which relate to transport (other than of freight).

#### **6 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial consequences for London TravelWatch.