
Secretariat memorandum

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Agenda item 5

TS010

Drafted 28.9.09

Actions taken

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To advise members of matters dealt with by the Chair, Deputy Chair, the Chief Executive and/or the secretariat since the last meeting.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report is received for information.

3 Information

- 3.1 Electrification Route Utilisation Strategy: London TravelWatch response

On 14 July 2009 the Rail and Underground Policy Officer sent London TravelWatch's response to this consultation to Network Rail. It may be viewed on the London TravelWatch website (<http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/document/3857/get>).

- 3.1 Kent Route Utilisation Strategy

On 23 July 2009 the Rail and Underground Policy Officer sent London TravelWatch's response to this consultation to Network Rail. It may be viewed on the London TravelWatch website (<http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/document/3860/get>).

- 3.3 Consultation on the licensing of motorcycle as Private Hire vehicles

On 23 July 2009 the Streets and Surface Transport Policy Officer sent London TravelWatch's response to this consultation to the Public Carriage Office. See Annex for details.

- 3.4 Sussex Route Utilisation Strategy

On 20 August 2009 the Rail and Underground Policy Officer sent London TravelWatch's response to this consultation to Network Rail. It may be viewed on the London TravelWatch website (<http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/document/3888/get>).

4 Equalities and inclusion implications

- 4.1 In accordance with London TravelWatch's duties under the Disability Discrimination Act and other legislation, account is taken when responding to consultations on proposals from external bodies of their particular impact (if any) on the needs of people whose access to transport may be restricted by reason of disability or social exclusion.

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 No specific financial implications for London TravelWatch arise from this report.

Annex

Our Ref: PHV's

Your Ref:

23 July 2009

PHV Motorcycle Consultation
Public Carriage Office
15 Penton Street
London N1 9PU

Dear Sirs

Consultation on the licensing of motorcycle as Private Hire vehicles

Thank you for consulting us on the above. We are grateful to be able to comment.

London TravelWatch is the statutory watchdog representing transport users in London. Our remit includes Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) licensed by Transport for London (TfL). That said, we have little knowledge of motorcycling issues and so the following are only observations for your consideration.

In principle this service would be a useful one for some travellers wanting to travel quickly through London's traffic. However, the safety of passengers will need considering and measures taken to reduce the risk to passengers. It seems clear that motorcycles will present different risks to that of conventional four wheeled PHVs.

To minimise these risks it would seem that the driver's skill is important. We would want to see a requirement that drivers have passed an advanced test.

The stability of the vehicle would also be important. A scooter would be less stable than a very heavy motorcycle. We would like to see either a minimum engine size imposed or another way found of ensuring less stable vehicles are not operated.

The behaviour of the passenger is important. It may not be wise, for example, for passengers who are under the influence of drink to be conveyed. Therefore a clear commitment from the operator, that can be monitored by the PCO, that they will not carry passengers unfit to travel on a motorcycle would be beneficial. Breaches of this code should result in the loss of the operator's license.

Yours sincerely

Vincent Stops
Streets and Surface Transport Policy Officer