

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 13 April 2011.

PRESENT: Councillor Brunton (Chair); Councillors Kerr, McIntyre (as substitute for Councillor Dryden), McPartland (as substitute for Councillor Khan), Mawston, Purvis, Sanderson, J A Walker and Williams.

OFFICERS: J Bennington, P Clark and E Chicken.

****PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Tony Byng (Chair) and Joe Durkin (Secretary) Hackney Carriage Association
Tom Fisher, Middlesbrough Owner Driver Association, (MODA).

**** ALSO IN ATTENDANCE AS OBSERVERS:** Middlesbrough Borough Cars Limited representatives.

**** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole, Dryden, C Hobson and J Hobson.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this point of the meeting.

****MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 23 March 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

TAXI FACILITIES – CROSSFELL ROAD, BERWICK HILLS

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report the purpose of which was to introduce representatives from the Hackney Carriage Association and Middlesbrough Owner Driver Association. The report outlined the sources of evidence received so far and aspects of the scrutiny review to be considered at the meeting.

The Chair welcomed the representatives to the meeting and confirmed that the Board had asked several organisations to express their views on current taxi provision at Morrisons, Berwick Hills and a request for a taxi rank at Crossfell Road.

The representatives of the Hackney Carriage Association and Middlesbrough Owner Driver Association confirmed that the taxi provision at Morrisons, Berwick Hills currently worked well and it was considered that the regular customers of Morrisons were accustomed to such arrangements. In relation to the request for a taxi rank at Crossfell Road the representatives stated that safety was the main priority. Such a location was considered to be too close to a pelican crossing and set of traffic lights; was in a lay by currently used by emergency vehicles; in view of limited space probably only two cars could be parked at any one time; and the lay by was used on a regular basis for school buses taking children to and from the Neptune Baths. It was also pointed out that there was already a taxi rank nearby adjacent to the former Kwik Save site on Ormesby Road.

During discussions details were given as to how hackney carriage had operated on the Morrison's site following negotiations and approval of the store's Manager. An indication was given that there was usually up to seven hackney carriage vehicles at any one time on the Morrison's site and that the drivers were self regulated in accordance with hackney carriage rules and conditions.

In response to a suggestion made at an earlier meeting for school buses to use Morrison's car park as an alternative to Crossfell Road as a delivery and collection point for school children using Neptune Baths for swimming lessons the representatives of the HCA and the MODA

indicated that given the restricted space and the current usage of the car park difficulties were likely to arise should 45 seater coaches use such an area.

In response to clarification sought from Members the Head of Community Protection reiterated that a hackney carriage taxi rank could be designated on private land with the private landowner's approval and be subject to the prevailing legislation specifically prohibiting other vehicles parking in such an area.

Following Members' questions the HCA and MODA representatives reiterated that they supported current arrangements at Morrisons, Berwick Hills and reaffirmed their concerns on safety grounds as to any use of the lay by identified at Crossfell Road as a taxi rank.

ORDERED that the representatives of the Hackney Carriage Association and Middlesbrough Owner Driver Association be thanked for their attendance and information provided which would be incorporated into the overall review.