

**MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION**

Chief Executive's Department

**Name of Member submitting the question:** Councillor JordanDate received by Democratic Support Team:

27 Jan 2020

To: Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Customer Focus)**Question:** Why has the council changed its policy on Hackney Carriage plates when they have been returned and we are not issuing them?**Answer:**

There is a limit on the number of taxi plates and we do not have a waiting list for any plates that have been returned. The unmet demand survey has recently been completed by an external consultant, and concludes that there is no current significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage services. The response from the trade was better than other years and the support for the limit on vehicle numbers has increased. However, the report does note that there is less vehicles at night and has suggested that this is reviewed and that the Council consider whether a higher night tariff may help shift some of the excess daytime vehicles back towards servicing the night time demand. This will be reviewed over the next 12 months by the Taxi Licensing Team to consider how the night time provision can be improved. This has been delayed going to Cabinet due to the Elections and has been scheduled to go to the next available Cabinet to be approved.

The trade were consulted on the survey and there was strong support for the limit to be kept.

There are currently 346 HC plates and the limit is 367 so there has been a reduction of 21 plates, which is a reduction of 5%. There has always been a high number of HC plates in Plymouth compared to other similar sized cities. There have been a number of plates returned this year as the owners have not been able to rent or sell the vehicles and they have reached an age where they are not economical to maintain and renew their vehicle licence when they are not in use. There is therefore no demand for these plates and the survey has advised that the limit should be reduced to the current number (346) and then apply a moratorium so that unused plates are extinguished as demand for their services continues to fall.

Signed

Date 11 February 2020

## Note

- Written questions must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Democratic Support Team.
- Written questions will be replied to within 10 working days.
- Written questions and answers will be published on the last Friday of each month.