

## Enforcement Team response to the Draft Taxi Licensing Policy for Newcastle under Lyme

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the emerging draft taxi Licensing Policy dated 1st November 2014.

The Enforcement section carries out work which involves the Boroughs Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Fleet of just under 1,000 vehicles. The enforcement team is often involved with neighbouring local authorities and police authorities, and quite often this work will involve the necessary identification of cars and drivers. Please find below a concern regarding the councils policy.

We would concur that the policy is a thorough and comprehensive document however it may be prudent to consider the following observation :

With regard to paragraph six of Standard conditions attached to a Hackney Carriage Vehicle and section 3 Paragraph (1) of Standard conditions attached to a Private Hire Vehicle

1 . It can be difficult to identify vehicle plate numbers when trying to investigate complaints . These complaints may range over a number of incidents, the most serious of which can involve assault and rape. Identification is becoming more difficult with longer plate numbers and firms that change names. At present the only signage a licensed vehicle is required to display comprises of a plate that is attached the rear of the vehicle, a plate attached to the front bumper and an internal number that is displayed in the front of the window screen. It may help to address this identification problem if in addition to the above plates, vehicles were to show their plate number as a large number on the doors of the vehicle. The plate number would remain constant and can be seen easily by members of the public and Police officers.