

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Overview Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of Taxi Safety. A task group of 5 members of the Scrutiny committee chaired by Councillor Dyke carried out the review

1.2 The terms of reference for the review were:

To review the effectiveness of the Cabwatch scheme

To assess what mechanisms are in place for the exchange of information between the council, the police and taxi drivers.

To examine what options are available and any best practice or solutions that other authorities have successfully implemented to address the issue of taxi safety

To make recommendations to cabinet based on the outcome of the review.

1.3 Recommendations

1.3.1 **To maintain the excellent partnership working between the council, the police and taxi drivers**

1.3.2 **To ensure that all incidents reported by drivers are logged and acted upon, where appropriate and the authority and driver concerned be kept informed of progress**

1.3.3 **The council to actively pursue advertising on cabs as a means to offset some of the costs of the installation of in-cab CCTV for new drivers and for possible future system upgrades.**

1.3.4 **To complete a review of the council's 'conditions of fitness'. This review to include consideration of whether to make in-cab CCTV mandatory for the granting of a license as well as the introduction of other conditions to raise the quality of taxis services in the borough.**

1.3.5 **To develop the ongoing training programme to meet the needs of taxi drivers, the authority and the police.**

1.4 The context in which the review was carried out was the murder of Mr Gian Chand Bajr a Gravesham taxi driver.

1.5 Evidence gathering

Three evidence gathering sessions were held with the police, a representative of the taxi drivers and Gravesham Borough Council's Senior Licensing Officer as the project progressed.