

## LTI JOINS DEBATE ON SO CALLED GREENER VEHICLES FOR NORWICH



Matthew Cheyne

LTI Vehicles has joined the debate on which style of taxi should be approved to work on the streets of Norwich. The city is currently undergoing a public consultation into which type of taxi should be allowed on its streets and LTI believes that there may be confusion as to the benefits of its vehicles compared to car-derived taxis.

Sales and marketing director, Matthew Cheyne, says the company's latest model, the TX4, puts other models, particularly those converted from cars, into the shade on a number of issues: "Norwich residents can be assured of our commitment to keeping emissions at a minimum, with emissions produced by the TX4 taxi 50 per cent cleaner than the latest Euro 4 legal limit. The current London taxi emits 211g CO2 per km and falls into band F of the Treasury tax band for vehicle excise duty. This is the same tax band as vehicles such as Allied Vehicles' Peugeot E7, which claims it would be bringing greener vehicles to the streets of Norwich. The E7 has CO2 emissions only 13g lower at 198g CO2 per km. In real terms there is no difference between the vehicles' environmental efficiency.

"Added to this, the E7 is much larger than the London Taxi and less manoeuvrable, as it does not have our famous 25 foot turning circle; it is therefore forced to perform more three point turns, which uses more fuel and emitting more CO2. Drivers can purchase our TX4 from £26,995. Like its car-derived rival, it also features ABS braking and rear head restraints in both the front and back. We believe our British-made vehicles have something to offer drivers, taxi passengers and the local environment."

Norwich City Council has strict criteria for the type of vehicles it currently licences as Hackney Carriages. At present this means London style taxis, so the Council are consulting with the public. Ian Streeter, senior licensing officer at the city council, said: "Because taxis are an important part of the transport system within Norwich, we are keen to hear the views of the public on the proposal to licence a different type of vehicle as a hackney carriage."

*Editor's note: The taxi Matthew Cheyne is comparing to the E7 is a manual TX4. This vehicle does fall into Band F for VED and is used in order to*

## FIVE YEARS COUNTDOWN UNTIL START OF THE PARALYMPICS

Many newspaper and magazine features have been talking about the Olympic Games in 2012. Planning for both the Olympics and the Paralympic Games is well underway now, with just five years to go before London and the UK will be the centre of the world's attention as the opening ceremony gets underway in Stratford, London. London's iconic taxi was used in the Bid for the Olympics. The taxi trade could benefit from the extra people looking to move around during the Games.

As part of the planning, a firm commitment has been made to improving sports participation through the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. "The Paralympic Games is one of the world's most exciting and inspiring sporting events for elite athletes, and we want to ensure that our Games in London are the best ever," said Sebastian Coe, Chairman of the London 2012 Organising Committee. "We want to set new standards on and off the track, and be a catalyst for continued change for public attitudes towards disability. Our use of the same core emblem for both the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is part of this process.

"The Paralympic Games will be a huge festival of sport with the whole of the world watching events including; Boccia, Goalball, Wheelchair Tennis and Wheelchair Rugby. The Games will leave a memorable Paralympic sports legacy including a physical legacy in new tennis facilities in the north

of the Olympic Park. London 2012 will provide a compact and inclusive Paralympic Games with high quality accessible venues, transport services and excellent Village facilities for athletes as well as for team and technical officials."

Most of London's Paralympic competition venues are set in two zones - the Olympic Park Zone and the River Zone. The two zones are within 15 minutes of each other, leading to one of the most compact Games ever, minimising travel times and disruption for Paralympians.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will run from Wednesday 29th August through to Sunday 9th September, and are the second largest multi-sport event in the world. There will be 20 sports, 4,500 athletes and 2,300 officials taking part. They will follow on from the London 2012 Olympic Games which take place from Friday 27th July to Sunday 12th August.



## KEN DAY RETIRES

Ken Day has retired as Secretary of the LMCPA and a lunch was given in his honour at the RAC Club, Pall Mall. Ken also recently retired as Secretary of the London Taxi Board.

LMCPA executive committee members attended and members of the LTB who have worked with Ken over the years, were also present. Ken's days in the taxi industry date back to the 1950s at the London General Cab Company at 1-3 Brixton Road where he was Company Secretary. He worked with Geof Trotter who chaired both LMCPA and LTB and on Geof's death, Ken chaired the LTB.

During his years with the LMCPA and London Taxi Board Ken, working with colleagues helped achieve a better deal on the Annual Tariff Review; campaigned to secure the introduction of the Night Tariff, campaigned to ensure access to bus lanes, and campaigned to secure an exemption for taxis from the Congestion Charge.

After the lunch, Ivan Kovler presented Ken with a watch in recognition of his tireless work for the cab trade.

