

## NEW SALES DIRECTOR FOR LTI VEHICLES

**R**ob Laidler, aged 40, has joined LTI as Sales Director, bringing with him over 18 years experience within the motor trade. Prior to joining the company Rob spent two years as Operations Director with SsangYong UK. In his new role, Rob is briefed with the responsibility for developing close and effective relationships with LTI's network of nine dealers in order to drive profitability and maximize sales of the TX4 taxi within the UK.

On the subject of his new role Rob commented: "I'm looking forward to working closely with the dealers to develop programmes that deliver high levels of service and value for money for our customers. I shall also be working closely with drivers and passengers alike to provide the safest, cleanest and most accessible taxi ever."

"We are delighted to welcome Rob to the team," said Peter Shillcock, Managing Director for LTI Vehicles. "Rob's excellent experience and forward-thinking approach make him the ideal person to compliment our current team and add significant value to the organisation as a whole. Rob's role is created as Matthew Cheyne moves from the Sales and Marketing role to International Market Development Director within LTI to concentrate on the expansion of overseas markets."



## NEW REMOVAL POWERS FOR TRAFFIC OFFICERS

**T**he Highways Agency is undertaking a public consultation over proposals to allow Traffic Officers to remove broken down or abandoned vehicles from the strategic road network. The consultation will last for 12 weeks and the Highways Agency is inviting drivers and other interested groups to comment on the proposals.

In its consultation document, The Removal, Storage and Disposal of Vehicles by Traffic Officers and the Secretary of State for Transport, the Highways Agency is seeking new legislation to remove certain, abandoned and broken down vehicles from the strategic road network which includes England's motorways and major A roads. Breakdowns on the strategic road network cover only around one to two percent of all break downs. The powers that would be given to Traffic Officers would be similar to those already exercised by the police.

Giving Traffic Officers the new powers will help keep carriageways and hard shoulders clear of vehicles which have been abandoned or cause obstruction or danger to other road users as well as keeping traffic moving safely. Anyone needing more information about the proposals, including how to make comments during the consultation period, can visit the dedicated pages on the Highways Agency's website at [www.highways.gov.uk/VehicleRecoveryConsultation](http://www.highways.gov.uk/VehicleRecoveryConsultation)

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## LONDON GETS SET FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

**C**hinese New Year 2008 on 10th February will herald the Year of the Rat. From 11am to 6.30pm on that day, visitors to Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and London Chinatown will be able to see in the Year of the Rat in spectacular style with a full programme of Chinese arts and entertainment – as well as food, firecrackers and fireworks.

The festivities start at 11am with a two-hour grand parade of hundreds of performers including dragons, lions and dancers travelling down The Strand, Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue. At Trafalgar Square – after an official opening ceremony at 12 noon – the stage and big screen will feature Chinese dragons, traditional and contemporary music and dance, and martial arts.

In Leicester Square there will be displays of fireworks and firecrackers on the hour from 2-6pm. Meanwhile, in specially decorated Chinatown and surrounding streets, there will be food and cultural stalls. To ensure visitors can move around Chinatown in comfort and safety, a one-way system for pedestrians will be in place with access into Chinatown via Shaftesbury Avenue. New for 2008, there will be activities for children and families in St Anne's Gardens, off Wardour Street.

Mr Chu Ting Tang, President of the London Chinatown Chinese Association, said: "Chinese New Year is the happiest Chinese festival and London's celebrations – the biggest outside Asia – certainly allow people to celebrate in spectacular style. This year's event is especially significant as Beijing hosts the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games ahead of London 2012. As the festivities are free, it's an ideal chance for everyone to experience Chinese culture. People can also see what Chinatown has on offer – not just during Chinese New Year, but all year round. Gong Hey Fat Choi!"