



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION **TO A MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2007

APPLICATION FEE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE /PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE **LICENCES**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the justification for the £25.00 application fee to licence a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.
- 1.2 This report has been produced at the request of the Taxi Liaison Group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.2 Members of Committee are recommended to consider the report and whether the £25 application fee should continue.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Within budget

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Accords with Council Policy

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 None.

7.0 WARDS AFFECTED

- 7.1 All.

8.0 CONSULTEES

8.1 Walsall Taxi Liaison Group, other local Licensing Authorities,

9.0 CONTACT OFFICER

9.1 John Beavon – Trading Standards Manager. Ext. 2214.

10.0 BACKGROUND

10.1 Fees for licence applications were introduced in 2005 following a report to the Taxi Liaison Group on 27th January 2005 headed “Increase in Licence Fees and Costs”.

10.2 The report was prepared following discussion with the trade and other Licensing Authorities and, amongst other things, identified areas where work was carried out but no charge was being made.

10.3 One such area was applications for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences where a one-off fee of £25 was introduced to cover the cost of

- Inspection of the vehicle;
- Inspection of required ancillary equipment;
- Inspection of the vehicle’s documentation;
- Production of records.

10.4 If a vehicle is found not to comply with licensing conditions the applicant is free to withdraw the application. Therefore if no application fee is payable the cost will be met from the general licensing fund which is born by all licensees.

10.5 The trade have stated that they already pay for a MOT test, and that inspection by the licensing service is unnecessary. The inspection, however, carried out by the licensing service is to test for conformity with the Authority’s licensing conditions and is not a test of roadworthiness as is the MOT.

10.6 The inspection carried out by the licensing service is a “one off” conducted at first application. The payment of an application fee not only covers the work carried out but discourages frivolous or speculative applications.