



Walsall Council

REPORT OF FLEET SERVICES MOT TEST CENTRE

TO A MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday 23rd .JANUARY 2008

REPORT CONCERNING TAXI TESTING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT.

- 1.1 To place before Committee a report concerning an application by Fleet Services MOT Test Centre to implement a fee for non attendance at pre-booked /scheduled vehicle tests.

2. RECOMMENDATION.

- 2.1 Committee is recommended to consider the application and approve a proposed fee of £25.00 for the FAILURE TO ARRIVE FOR A SCHEDULED VEHICLE TEST, AND FAILURE TO GIVE A MINIMUM OF 24 HOURS NOTICE of cancellation or re-scheduling.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

- 3.1 Within budget

Yes, only if the charge is approved, failing which the Council will be operating at a loss.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

- 4.1 Within Council Policy: Not applicable.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS.

5.1 Legal Services Consulted: Yes

5.2 Section 70 of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits the local authority powers to charge such fees for the compliance inspections and MOT testing of private hire and taxi vehicles as may be resolved by them from time to time.

5.3 The Council under current legislation can only make a reasonable charge in order to recover the administrative costs of licensing/testing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. Of course, if a surplus is made, that should then be used to offset the licensing/testing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles in following years to come.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS.

6.1 None.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

7.1 None.

8. WARD(S) AFFECTED.

8.1 All.

9. CONSULTEES.

9.1 Taxi Liaison Group:

10. CONTACT OFFICER.

10.1 Stephen Johnson. Fleet Manager, 01922 653719

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS.

11.1 Information reports;

Vehicle Test failure rates.

Failure to attend for scheduled test figures.

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 23rd. January 2008

REPORT CONCERNING TAXI TESTING

1. BACKGROUND.

- 1.1 The Taxi Testing fees are set by Fleet Services to enable the MOT Test Centre to carry out the duties delegated and authorised by this Committee and imposed by the legislation.
- 1.2 From time to time the fees are adjusted to cover the costs of carrying out, on behalf of the Authority, inspections and statutory MOT tests of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles for the purpose of determining vehicle roadworthiness, legality, safety and comfort and compliance with operating conditions and to cover any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the forgoing and with the control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.
- 1.3 Fleet Services has not implemented any increases in fees or charges since January 2007.
- 1.4 This Authority has looked at areas where work is done and does not at the present time make charges e.g. either administration duties or re issue of testing and scheduling paraphernalia. Both are time consuming and costly.
- 1.5 The Taxi Licensing Office through its improvements is endeavouring to promote a nationally recognised standard of excellence in training, drivers and vehicle fleet. The office recognises that the vehicle fleet and drivers, licensed by the Borough are in many cases the first line for visitors to judge the town and what it has to offer.
- 1.6 The proposed are in line with the Council's **Priorities** and **Vision**:-
 - i) Making it easier for people to get around
 - ii) Ensuring people are safe and secure
 - iii) Encouraging everyone to feel proud of Walsall.