



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

TO A MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 2010 @ 6.00PM

TRANSFER OF PRIVATE HIRE / HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE

LICENCE FEE TO NEW VEHICLE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For members of the committee to consider the transfer of the vehicle licence fee from an existing licensed vehicle to a permanent replacement vehicle providing there is a minimum period of 3 months left on the current vehicle licence. This policy to apply to all licensed vehicles.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The committee is asked to consider the report, and recommend approval of the transfer of the licence fee, from an existing licensed vehicle which is to be replaced by another permanent vehicle, providing there is a minimum period of 3 months left on the existing vehicle licence.
- 2.2 This policy only to apply where an existing licensed vehicle is to be permanently replaced by another vehicle which is compliant with current vehicle age policy and associated conditions of licence.
- 2.3 No monies to be reimbursed directly, including where a vehicle licence is simply surrendered and no replacement vehicle is subsequently licensed. Whole months of licence only to be considered when transferring entitlement.
- 2.4 The application fee (£25) in respect of any replacement vehicle to be licensed will still be applicable along with the associated cost of issuing

a new licence/licence plate (£10) and the cost of vehicle examination at the Councils test centre (£45).

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a meeting of members of the taxi association, the leader of the council and fellow members, a request was made by the licensed trade for consideration to be given to a transfer of the vehicle licence fee where that vehicle is taken off during the currency of its licence (e.g. where that vehicle is written off due to an accident or due to the age of the vehicle it is subsequently replaced by a newer vehicle).
- 3.2 The above scenarios would require a new licence fee to be paid for a replacement vehicle that is currently £175 or £215 dependant on the age of the vehicle.
- 3.3 It is considered that as a matter of prudence, where a vehicle licence is surrendered in favour of a vehicle which is to replace the existing currently licensed vehicle, a pro rata fee will be paid for that licence dependant on the period left on the existing licence .
- 3.4 An example would be that for a vehicle over 3 years of age the licence fee is currently £215 (£18/month pro rata). If the vehicle was written off after 3months, and a replacement vehicle is licensed to replace the written off vehicle, the applicant would pay a pro rata fee of £54 (£215 fee – 9 months licence remaining = £54)
- 3.5 There will be no refund of licence fee if there is less than 3 months on the existing vehicle licence.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Currently there is no provision to transfer licensed vehicle fees. This means that where a vehicle licence has to be surrendered early (vehicle written off following road traffic accident, purchase of new vehicle etc) the original licence fee is lost and a new licence payment in full is required in all cases.
- 4.2 There will be no direct cost implications to the council.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any changes made to the private hire and hackney carriage conditions of licence will need to be amended accordingly.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal Services Consulted: No

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 None.

9.0 WARD(S) AFFECTED

9.1 None.

10.0 CONSULTEES

10.1 None

11.0 CONTACT OFFICER

11.1. Steven Knapper– Principal Licensing Officer. Ext. 2221