
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING

1 SUMMARY

Members are asked to consider and determine the process and timetable for a review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle licensing function.

2 TIMETABLE

- 2.1 In order for a comprehensive review of the licensing function to be undertaken within a reasonable timescale it is important that the work is programmed to recognise influencing factors. These will include the Tariff Review (traditionally changing around 1 October), resources (including Member availability) and the views of those who operate within the trade.
- 2.2 The following timetable is drafted for Members' consideration which proposes that the review work is completed by October with final recommendations to the Environmental Services Committee on 7 November 2002.
- 2.3 For Members' information, a copy of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management's report to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee is appended to this report.
- 2.4 1st Meeting (17 July)
- Officers to advise on staffing levels in the Hackney Carriage Office and how this sits with other Transportation functions.
 - Members to consider proposals to resolve the ranking problems at Spa Road, Hockley, High Street, Rayleigh and Rochford Square.
 - Decide on the level of consultation and parties, if any, to be invited to attend and address the next meeting.
 - Circulate to Members details of the existing Knowledge Test.

- To consider how to address concerns about delays at the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). (Now an outsourced service to a private contractor).
- To receive clarification of the position on third plate-holding vis-à-vis the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Seek Members' views on the "freezing" of issuing new plates (replacement vehicle plating to continue) until after the completion of the review.
- Whether a peer review should be undertaken with a partner Local Authority. (Suggest that the Head of Service seeks out a Best Practice Authority).
- Members to consider the overall level of Service Delivery

**Second Meeting
(1 August)**

- Receive submissions from:-
 - (a) Taxi Operator representative speaking for all four firms.
 - (b) Taxi Driver representative speaking for all drivers.
 - (c) Any other groups
- Recommend preferred solutions to Ranking problems.
- Recommend full or partial knowledge test.
- Receive latest performance statistics from CRB

**Third Meeting
(September)**

This meeting should address issues of detail including:-

- Level of plate holding by any individual plate holder proprietor or firms.

- Whether to provide free accommodation for driver training.
- Disabled Persons Parking Bays situated in High Street, Rayleigh rank area.
- Whether the Council should employ a consultant to advise on plate levels in the District.
- Whether companies should be allowed to continue to hold plates in company name.
- Issues surrounding vehicles signage/advertising.
- Review of fare structure to come into effect from 1 October 2002 (or thereabouts).
- Review of charges for licensing functions to dovetail into the 2003/04 budget process.
- Any issues arising from earlier meetings.

Fourth Meeting
(October)

Finalise Review and complete recommendations to the Environmental Services Committee (7 November).

4 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**

That the Work Programme be agreed.

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Mr S J Clarkson on:-

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