

Committee: LICENSING & REGULATORY

Date of Meeting: 5th July 2010

Title of Report: AN UPDATE ON PROVISION OF THE TAXI LICENSING FACILITIES BY SEFTON PLUS AND ON THE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY THE TAXI LICENSING TEAM.

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Technical Services Director

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This report contains	Yes	No
CONFIDENTIAL information/		✓
EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph(s)..... of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972		✓
Is the decision on this report DELEGATED?	✓	

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing Facilities provided by Sefton Plus and the enforcement activities of the Taxi Licensing Team

Recommendation(s)

That the Licensing & Regulatory Committee:

- (i) Notes the report and
- (ii) Requests similar reports on a biannual basis.

Corporate Objective Monitoring

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2.	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3.	Jobs and Prosperity	✓		
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5.	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities	✓		
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8.	Children and Young People		✓	

Financial Implications

The Taxi Licensing Section is required to be self-financing; all service costs are accommodated from within the existing budget and fee-charging regime.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
Specific Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	Ring Fenced Trade Account	Ring Fenced Trade Account	Ring Fenced Trade Account	Ring Fenced Trade Account
Sefton funded Resources	-	-	-	-
Funded from External Resources	-	-	-	-
Does the External Funding have an expiry date?				
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

Sefton Plus

List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

N/A

Background

1. Members will recall that, on 23rd November 2009, the Licensing and Regulatory Committee considered a report entitled “An Update on the Provision of the Taxi Licensing Facilities by Sefton Plus”.
2. That report highlighted Service performance for the period 1st April 2009 to 30th September 2009 and can be summarised as follows:
 - 1108 of the available 1181 appointments available were booked at the Bootle One Stop Shop. **35%, (383)** were not kept by the trade.
 - 560 of the available 946 appointments available were booked at the Southport One Stop Shop. **18%, (100)** were not kept by the trade.
 - 483 failed appointments equates to 241.5 officer hours wasted, ie 33.5 days.
 - A total of 512 appointments remained unbooked, 392 in Southport One Stop Shop.
 - There were 6996 “drop ins” in the Bootle One Stop Shop of which 3% (233) did not wait to be seen.
 - There were 1296 “drop ins” in the Southport One Stop Shop of which 1% (18) did not wait to be seen.
 - 1470 Knowledge Test places have been offered at the Bootle One Stop Shop, 89% of which were booked. 30% of candidates failed to attend their appointments. 345 (43%) of the 920 candidates who attended passed the test.
 - 1060 Knowledge test places have been offered at the Southport One Stop Shop, 75% of which were booked. 25% of candidates failed to attend their appointments. 254 (43%) of the 589 candidates who attended passed the test.
 - The average pass rate was 40%
 - The number of licence applications received over the period is up by 13.93% compared with the same period in 2008/09.
3. The report also concluded that there was available capacity in the Appointment system in both One Stop Shops, which if used could reduce the number of “drop ins” and waiting time, not just for the Trade but other Council clients.

The Service – 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

4. Taxi Licensing Appointments at Bootle One Stop Shop

Appts Offered	Appts Booked	Appts Unused	Appts Kept	Appts Not Kept	Drop Ins Seen	Drop Ins Not Seen	Total Drop Ins
995	875 (88%)	120 (12%)	555 (63%)	320 (37%)	7651	4 (0.05%)	7655

5. Taxi Licensing Appointments at Southport One Stop Shop

Appts Offered	Appts Booked	Appts Unused	Appts Kept	Appts Not Kept	Drop Ins Seen	Drop Ins Not seen	Total Drop Ins
919	446 (48%)	473 (52%)	352 (38%)	94 (10%)	1442	0 (0%)	1442

6. Knowledge Test at Bootle One Stop Shop

Thursdays	Total Spaces	Booked Test	"Did Not Attend"	Actual Attendance	Attended and failed	Attended and passed	Bootle % pass rate attendees	Bootle % pass rate against bookings
TOTALS	1560	730	206	524	293	231	44%	32%
		(47%)	(28%)	(72%)	(56%)	(44%)	% -v- Attend	% -v- Booked

7. Knowledge Test at Southport One Stop Shop

Tuesdays	Total Spaces	Booked Test	"Did Not Attend"	Actual Attendance	Attended and failed	Attended and passed	Southport % pass rate attendees	Southport % pass rate against bookings
TOTALS	520	373	105	268	176	92	34%	25%
		(72%)	(28%)	(72%)	(66%)	(34%)	% -v- Attend	% -v- Booked

8. For the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 of those who completed licence applications 246 chose a hackney carriage driver licence whilst 1496 chose a private hire drivers licence.

9. Number of Licence Applications compared against previous years

Month of	Number of Licence Applications	Number of Licence Applications	Number of Licence Applications	Number of Licence Applications	Change 2008/09 against 2008/09	Percentage change
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10		
Apr	411	411	552	663	111	20.10%
May	462	470	475	532	57	12.00%
Jun	466	477	511	581	70	13.69%
Jul	443	509	610	651	41	6.72%
Aug	485	511	488	526	38	7.79%
Sep	478	468	484	556	72	14.87%
Oct	453	483	505	562	57	11.28%
Nov	554	625	577	560	-13	-2.25%
Dec	478	384	546	462	-84	-15.38%
Jan	494	578	595	554	-41	-6.89%
Feb	490	540	691	598	-93	-13.45%
Mar	552	538	421	741	320	76.01%
Total	5766	5994	6455	6986	531	8.23%

10. Service performance for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 can be summarised as follows:
- 875 of the available 995 appointments available were booked at the Bootle One Stop Shop. **37%, (320)** were not kept by the trade.
 - 446 of the available 919 appointments available were booked at the Southport One Stop Shop. **10%, (94)** were not kept by the trade.
 - 414 failed appointments equates to 207 officer hours wasted, ie 28.8 days.
 - A total of 593 appointments remained unbooked, 473 in Southport One Stop Shop.
 - There were 7651 “drop ins” in the Bootle One Stop Shop of which 0.05% (4) did not wait to be seen.
 - There were 1442 “drop ins” in the Southport One Stop Shop of which 0% did not wait to be seen.
 - 1560 Knowledge Test places have been offered at the Bootle One Stop Shop, 47% of which were booked. 28% of candidates failed to attend their appointments. 231 (44%) of the 524 candidates who attended passed the test.
 - 520 Knowledge test places have been offered at the Southport One Stop Shop, 72% of which were booked. 28% of candidates failed to attend their appointments. 92 (34%) of the 268 candidates who attended passed the test.
 - The average pass rate was 39%
 - The number of licence applications received over the period is up by 8.23% compared with the same period in 2008/09.
11. There is available capacity in the Appointment system in both One Stop Shops, which if used could reduce the number of “drop ins” and waiting time, not just for the Trade but other Council clients.

Taxi Licensing Team Enforcement Statistics

12. Taxi Licensing Team Enforcement performance for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 and can be summarised as follows:
- a) Hackney Carriage On Street Inspections
- 459 vehicles inspected
 - 87% Fault Free – 64 vehicle defect notices issued, 8 stop notices issued.
 - 145 requests to produce insurance
- b) Private Hire On Street Inspections
- 2364 vehicles inspected
 - 67% Fault Free – 571 vehicle defect notices issued, 41 stop notices issued.
 - 873 requests to produce insurance

c) Prosecutions

Defendant	Offences	Fine	Costs	Points
Riley	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£265	£349	6
Scott	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£265	£290	6
Marcus	Defective Tyres	£75 x 2	£165	3
McCluskey	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£250	£245	6
Birchall	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£265	£292	6
Cooper	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£600	£232	6
Morley	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£500	£230	6
Bennetts	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£500	£1015	6
Dunkley	Plying for Hire	£250	£280	N/A
Francis	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£490	£231	6
Burns	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£650	£245	8
Miah	Defective Tyre	£200	£213	3
Thompson	Defective Tyre	£200	£165	3
Warham	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£250	£100	6
Gerrard	L'pool Hackney – Plying for Hire	£150 x 4	£286.45	
Milne	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£250	£100	6
Riding	L'pool Hackney – Plying for Hire	£200	£216	
Kesler	L'pool Hackney – Plying for Hire	£170	£288	
McMullen	Plying for Hire / No Insurance	£400	£355	7
Williams	L'pool Hackney – Plying for Hire	£350	£287	
Melia	L'pool Hackney – Plying for Hire	£350	£303	

d) Warnings

- 20 Warning Letters

e) Suspensions / Revocations / Refusals

- 19 Licence Applications Refused
- 12 Licences Revoked
- 7 Licences Suspended