

Committee: LICENSING & REGULATORY

Date of Meeting: 25th October 2010

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

Report of: Mr Peter Moore
Environmental & Technical
Services Director

Contact Officer: Mr Andrew Naisbitt
(Telephone No.) 0151 934 4014

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 5th July 2010, 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 31st March 2010 and 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.
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 2010 to 30th September 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
505	417 (83%)	88 (21%)	249 (60%)	168 (40%)	3860	159 (0.04%)	4019

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
483	202 (42%)	281 (58%)	169 (84%)	33 (16%)	759	0 (0%)	759

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	810	690	201	489	347	142	29%	21%
		(85%)	(29%)	(71%)	(71%)	(29%)	% -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	295	76	219	139	80	37%	27%
		(57%)	(26%)	(74%)	(63%)	(37%)	% -v- Attend	% -v- Booked

8. For the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 of those who completed licence applications 108 chose a hackney carriage driver licence whilst 881 chose a private hire drivers licence.

9. Number of Licence Applications compared against previous years

Month of	Number of Licence Applications 2007/08	Number of Licence Applications 2008/09	Number of Licence Applications 2009/10	Number of Licence Applications 2010/11	Change 2010/11 against 2009/10	Percentage change
Apr	411	552	663	601	-62	-9.35%
May	470	475	532	579	47	8.83%
Jun	477	511	581	620	39	6.71%
Jul	509	610	651	596	-55	-8.45%
Aug	511	488	526	526	0	0.00%
Sep	468	484	556	608	52	9.35%

Total	2846	3120	3509	3530	21	0.60%
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10. Service performance for the period 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010 can be summarised as follows:

- 417 of the available 505 appointments available were booked at the Bootle One Stop Shop. **40%**, **(168)** were not kept by the trade.
- 202 of the available 483 appointments available were booked at the Southport One Stop Shop. **16%**, **(33)** were not kept by the trade.
- 201 failed appointments equates to 100.5 officer hours wasted, ie 14 days over six months.
- A total of 369 appointments remained unbooked, 281 in Southport One Stop Shop.
- There were 3860 “drop ins” in the Bootle One Stop Shop of which 0.04% (159) did not wait to be seen.
- There were 759 “drop ins” in the Southport One Stop Shop of which 0% did not wait to be seen.
- 810 Knowledge Test places have been offered at the Bootle One Stop Shop, 85% of which were booked. 29% of candidates failed to attend their appointments. 142 (19%) of the 489 candidates who attended passed the test.
- 520 Knowledge test places have been offered at the Southport One Stop Shop, 57% of which were booked. 26% of candidates failed to attend their appointments. 80 (37%) of the 219 candidates who attended passed the test.
- The average pass rate was 33%
- The number of licence applications received over the period is up by 0.60% compared with the same period in 2009/10.

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.

12. The Environment and Technical Services Director has instigated dialogue with Sefton Plus with the view of transferring the remaining “back office” administrative taxi licensing functions to Sefton Plus. It is envisaged that if feasible this transfer would significantly enhance the service delivered through Sefton Plus and ultimately benefit all Council clients and Sefton Council. Policy and enforcement responsibilities would remain with the Environmental & Technical Services Department.

Taxi Licensing Team Enforcement Statistics

13. (a) Hackney Carriage On Street inspections
- 155 vehicles inspected
 - 88.55% Fault free- 19 vehicle defect notices issued, 2 stop notices issued

- 53 requests to produce insurance

(b) Private Hire On Street Inspections

- 713 vehicles inspected
- 76.55% Fault free- 183 Vehicle Defect Notices issued, 20 Stop Notices issued
- 392 requests to produce insurance

(c) Prosecutions – 1st April 2010 – 30th September 2010

Offences	Fine & Costs	Points
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£75 + £258 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£75 + £225 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£100 + £150 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£35 + £252 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£130 + £200 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£350 + £245 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£70 + £200 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£100 + £120 costs	
Liverpool HC Plying for hire in Sefton	£80 + £150 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£60+ £267 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£75+ £150 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£120 + £240 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£120 + £240 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£120 + £233 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£ 75 + £279 costs	
Liverpool HC Driver Plying for Hire	£ 75 + £278 costs	
Sefton PH Driver Plying for Hire & No Insurance	£250 + £150 costs	6 points

(d) Warning letters

- 12 warning letters

(e) Suspensions/ Revocations/ Refusals

- 32 driver licence applications refused
- 5 drivers licences revoked
- 3 drivers licence immediately suspended..