

Licensing Committee – 3rd February 2009

6. Proposed Changes to Taxi Licensing Plates

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister, Health & Housing
Head of Service Laurence Willis, Head of Service Environmental Health & Community Protection

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Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the proposal to change over from our current taxi and private hire plating system to a new system designed and supplied by MOGO.

Recommendations

Members are requested to either

- (1) Approve the move over to the new plate system; or
- (2) Refuse the move over to the new plate system and continue with the present system.

Background

Members may recall that for some time now, the licensing team have been looking at alternatives to the current plating system with a view to obtaining a system that provides enhanced safety features to enable the public to ensure that any taxi/private hire vehicle that they may use is appropriately licensed.

Report Detail

Since the last change of plates, time has moved on and there are now more efficient plating systems available that have enhanced security features that benefit both the Council as the enforcing authority and the public as users of taxi services.

It is therefore proposed that we change to the MOGO system, which is a computer-based system rather than continue with the present manual system.

The proposed system will allow the production of a rear plate for the vehicle which contains a holographic security seal which is tamper evident and also the production of a double sided internal plate which can be viewed from both the interior and exterior of the vehicle, glows in the dark and also contains a tamper evident security seal.

In addition to the above the MOGO system is also available with “no drill” brackets, which will benefit our drivers, as they will be able to affix the plates without the need for drilling holes in their vehicle.

Financial Implications

There will be financial implications with regard to this proposal both to the Council and its licensing agents at the Town Councils.

The initial cost of purchasing all materials required and configuring our existing computer system to work with the system is £15,769, however this cost will be recouped through licensing fees and an increase in the refundable deposits charged per vehicle.

The cost to the Town Councils as agents will vary dependant on which of the 2 options outlined below that they wish to choose.

1. Producing the plates themselves.

MOGO are able to provide the Town Councils with a free software program that operates using Windows 98 (or higher). In this case SSDC will then only charge Town Councils for the supply of plates and consumables, this will be charged at cost.

2. SSDC producing the plates on behalf of the Town Councils

The charge for this will be the same as the above with an additional element added for the officer time taken to input the information into the computer system and produce the plate.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

A key corporate priority is to ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities; this proposal meets this requirement by improving taxi safety.

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: None
