

Licensing Committee – 14 February 2012

6. Taxi Enforcement Costs

Executive Portfolio Holder: Peter Seib – Regulatory & Democratic Services
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Purpose of the Report

To update members on the discussions that have taken place in relation to recharging Town Councils for the costs of enforcement work undertaken by the District Council on their behalf.

Recommendations

- (1) That members note the report.
- (2) That the Licensing Manager in consultation with Wincanton and Yeovil Town Councils, draw up a recharging scheme for taxi enforcement costs that can be implemented during the 2012/13 financial year.

Background

Members will recall that this subject was discussed at both the October & December Licensing Committees and that it was noted that further reports would be brought back to Members.

To update Members that both Crewkerne & Ilminster Town Councils have handed back the taxi licensing function to the District Council. Thus leaving Wincanton & Yeovil as the remaining Town Councils undertaking the taxi licensing function.

The Licensing Manager has met with both Wincanton & Yeovil Town Councils and both have expressed a desire to retain the taxi licensing function, although they accept that enforcement costs will need to be recharged back to them.

It was generally accepted that where enforcement is required as a matter of urgency and the Town Council has no one available, then the District Council should enforce and recharge the Town Council for the officer time in dealing with the matter. Where operations are planned and the Town Councils have officers qualified to enforce, then they should be invited to attend. If they are unable to attend then the enforcement costs for the operation should be apportioned according to the % of the taxi fleet issued by the relative council's at the start of the financial year.

This would equate to the following:

South Somerset District Council	85%
Yeovil Town Council	5%
Wincanton Town Council	10%

Financial Implications

Exact figures are not known at this point, however it is expected that by adopting this measure a cost saving of approx £1200 would be made per annum.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The proposals will have an impact on corporate theme four ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities by ensuring that taxi enforcement and therefore passenger safety is properly funded.

There will also be an impact on theme five as by ensuring Town Council's are paying their contribution towards taxi enforcement the district council are to ensure the ongoing delivery of well managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: *Licensing Committee 11/10/11 and 13/12/11*
