

# **OXFORD CITY COUNCIL**

## **Licensing Committee**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**Report of: Transport & Parking Business Manager**

**Title: Payment for non-attendance at an arranged test for a  
Certificate of Compliance**

**Ward: All**

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**Key Decision: No**

**Lead Member:**

**Scrutiny responsibility: Not applicable**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended:-

To approve the proposed charges for non-attendance of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles for pre-arranged tests for the Certificate of Compliance.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. Both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles are required by regulation to pass a test for the Certificate of Compliance (taxi MOT) every six months.
2. The initial inspection of a new vehicle is arranged through the Taxi Licensing Office, but subsequent tests are the responsibility of the proprietor of the vehicle, who books an appointment through the Motor Transport section at Marsh Road..
3. It has been apparent for some time that a number of proprietors have either not been attending for the test, perhaps because the vehicle was defective, but not cancelling the appointment, or have been arriving late, leaving insufficient time for the test to be completed before the arrival of the next vehicle. Refusal of a test has on occasion led to problems for the tester.
4. Non-attendance or late arrival, for which there is currently no financial penalty has led to the tester not being usefully employed, either testing another vehicle or carrying out other work. Non-attendance also leads to longer waiting times for appointments.
5. The Motor Transport Section makes a charge for 15 minutes against the Taxi Licensing account. The service being self-funded, the cost of an individual's non-attendance is borne by all licence holders.

## **PROPOSAL**

6. It is proposed that a charge be made for non-attendance or late arrival for testing. The purpose of such a charge is not to gain revenue but as an incentive for proprietors both to cancel appointments if not required and to arrive on time.

7. Experience of a similar situation with the drivers' local knowledge tests has shown that the large proportion of non-attendances dropped almost to nil following the introduction of a small charge. If a similar pattern is followed with charges for non-attendance for vehicle testing, it is anticipated that after a short period, few charges will be collected.
8. It is proposed that when a vehicle has not arrived and made available for testing within ten minutes of the time of the arranged appointment for testing, that the test be refused, that a charge of £15 be made and that the charge must be paid prior to any subsequent test being carried out on that vehicle.
9. Section 70 of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out the fees relating to vehicles and operators licences, it states that the fees may be sufficient to cover the cost in whole or in part of any reasonable administration or other costs in connection with the above and with the control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY

Legal & Democratic Services (Jeremy Franklin)

The Transport & Parking Business Manager

Financial Management (Claire Reid)