

COMMITTEE: Planning and Licensing Committee

DATE: 6th November 2001

SUBJECT: Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Calendar Taximeters

REPORT OF: Douglas Lindsay, Commercial Services Manager,
Environmental Health

Ward(s): All

Purpose: Members are asked to approve an addition to the Council's Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Vehicle Licence Conditions, requiring fully date and time operated calendar meters to be fitted to all hackney carriages 1st June 2002.

Contact: Douglas Lindsay, Commercial Services Manager, Telephone 01323 415375 or internally on extension 5375.

Recommendations : Members approve the following addition to Eastbourne Borough Council Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Vehicle Licence Conditions:-
Taximeters fitted to hackney carriages shall be fully date and time operated calendar meters with the manual override disabled. The taximeters shall be British Standards Institute and Public Carriage Office approved. This condition shall apply from 1st June 2002.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 47(1) enables the Council to attach to the grant of a licence of a hackney carriage such conditions as the Council may consider reasonably necessary.
- 1.2 Calendar meters incorporate a date and time clock which automatically calculates the metered fare over distance and time for the period the relevant tariff applies. Meters which are not of the calendar type require the driver to manually set the tariff for the relevant period.
- 1.3 The advantage of the calendar meter is, that with the manual override disabled, both the driver and passenger can be confident that the correct fare calculation over distance and time is displayed on the meter. Extras for passengers' luggage and pets, when applicable, will still be entered manually at the start of the hiring.
- 1.4 The proposal for all taximeters to be calendar meters was put forward by representatives of the trade at the meetings to discuss future fare tariff structures with officers and Councillors Bowker, Marsh and Taylor.

2.0 Implementing Calendar Meters

- 2.1 Most Eastbourne licensed hackney carriages are fitted with calendar meters. The proposal is for the remaining hackney carriages to be fitted with them by 1st June 2002, the scheduled implementation date of the next fare review. This provides a reasonable lead in time for hackney carriage proprietors to make the necessary arrangements to have a suitable meter installed.
- 2.2 In my opinion, the recommended condition meets the requirements of the Act, taking into account the taximeter cost of approximately £300, driver and public benefits and also the wish by the hackney carriage trade for these taximeters to be fitted to all hackney carriages.

3.0 Consultations

- 3.1 This proposal has been put forward by representatives of the hackney carriage trade. Hackney carriage proprietors drivers have been advised by letter dated the 22nd October 2001 that the proposal will go before the next Planning and Licensing Committee. No observations have been received to this letter.

4.0 Human Resource and Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost to hackney carriage proprietors is given above. There are no significant human resource and financial implications for the Council.

5.0 Human Rights, Environmental, Youth and Anti-poverty Implications

- 5.1 There are none.

Douglas Lindsay
Commercial Services Manager

Background Papers:

None.

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