

**REPORT FROM: PLANNING, BUILDING CONTROL & LICENSING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: EXECUTIVE

DATE: 23 JULY 2015

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RE-TEST FEE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider an objection regarding the introduction of a £10 re-test fee for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles which fail a taxi test.

RECOMMENDATION

That a re-test fee of £10 be introduced on 1st August 2015.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To encourage the trade to pre-check their vehicles before a taxi test.

BACKGROUND

1. At a meeting of the Executive on 24th July 2014 it was agreed to introduce a £10 re-test fee for vehicles failing their taxi test.
2. The £10 would be payable direct to the Council's appointed garages.
3. It was subsequently withdrawn following a complaint that the fee should have been advertised before it was introduced.
4. An advert was put in the local newspapers on 8th May 2015 giving notice that the Council intended to introduce the fee on 1st July 2015 provided no objections were received by 5th June 2015.

ISSUE

5. The following objection has been received from the Hackney Drivers Association Ltd:

“The fee is a pointless charge and it’s the council forcing fees on MOT stations that should be competing for the trades business and there is no reason why the council should interfere with the cost of an MOT. The costs of obtaining a licence is becoming unjustified and costly which is taking money from the family struggling to make ends meet, we see no justification for this fee what so ever and it should be scrapped”

6. The objection does not deal with the purpose of why the fee was introduced which was to have fit and roadworthy vehicles. The onus is on the vehicle owner to check their vehicles so as to prevent paying the fee.

CONCLUSION

7. The introduction of the re-test fee is to encourage vehicle owners to pre-check their vehicles before taking it for a taxi test and not using the test to find defects that should previously been rectified.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: None as the fee will be paid direct to the garages.

Legal: None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None