

LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

Agenda Item 19

Brighton & Hove City Council

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Subject: | Non Payment of Fares Notice | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 20 November 2014 | | |
| Report of: | Director of Public Health | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Martin Seymour | Tel: 29-2550 |
| | Email: | martin.seymour@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To approve wording for a notice for use in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to help prevent non-payment of taxi fares.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Committee approve notice wording set out in paragraph 3.4 and use of council logo in any notice produced.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Members of the trade have requested the use of a notice to include Sussex Police and Council Logos in vehicles to help prevent the deliberate non-payment of fares by some customers and raise awareness that non-payment is a criminal offence. The trade have been working with Sussex Police on the wording of a notice and now wish that the agreed wording is approved by Committee for use in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles to raise awareness that non-payment can be a criminal offence.
- 3.2 Where a person dishonestly obtains services (e.g. hiring of a taxi) by deception or knows that payment on the spot for a service done is required but dishonestly makes off without paying intending never to pay are offences under the Theft Act 1978 s 3 and Fraud Act 2006 s11.
- 3.3 Where there is no intent not to pay or a dispute over the service provided an offence is not committed but any outstanding monies may be recovered through the civil Courts.
- 3.4 The wording agreed by the Trade and Sussex Police is
- 3.5 "Before hiring this vehicle:

- Please ensure you have the means to pay. Deliberate failure to make payments before leaving this vehicle is a Criminal Offence”.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

None

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

This matter has been discussed at the council’s hackney carriage and private hire consultation forum where all members of that forum are free to express their opinions. The forum members have delegated negotiations to selected representatives. Members of the forum are supportive of the wording of the notice.

6. CONCLUSION

That members note the report.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report other than for the cost of officer time. The costs associated to taxi licensing and enforcement is met from the existing Taxi Licensing revenue budget which is funded by licencing fees in accordance with relevant regulation.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford Date: 16/10/14

7.2 Legal Implications:

Lawyer Rebecca Sidell Date:

7.3 Equalities Implications:

None

7.4 Sustainability Implications:

None

7.5 Any Other Significant Implications:

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices A:

None

