

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 13 SEPTEMBER 2010

TAXI LICENSING BUDGET

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a breakdown of income and expenditure in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In June 2010, the Council received a Freedom of Information request for a detailed breakdown of income and expenditure relating to Taxi and Private Hire functions for the periods 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10. In response to the request the information attached in Appendix 1, was provided. At the last meeting of this Committee, Members requested that a report be brought to the Committee to explain the reason for the deficit in the budget of £33,115 and its relation to the recharge in respect of the One Stop Shop Service.
- 2.2 The attached breakdown shows that there was an excess of income over expenditure of £2,822 in 2007/8 and subsequently there was no licence fee increase for 2008/9. A deficit of income to expenditure of £1,747 occurred in 2008/9. For 2009/10 there was a deficit between income and expenditure of £33,115. This sum reflects the effect of the apportionment to Licensing of the total cost for the provision of the One Stop Shop Service of the Council. This charge is balanced by an equivalent budget provided for the purpose. However, as taxi licensing fees do not reflect the element of that recharge pertinent to taxi licensing the accounts show a net deficit. The budget provided to cover the recharge means that the overall licensing budget is not overspent.
- 2.3 The financing of the One Stop Shops is made through recharges to those departments using the service. The total budget to Licensing for the One Stop Shop Service for 2009/10 was £66,905.86 and of this £37,467 was attributed to the Taxis account. The total apportionment is based on the following elements: number of queries handled, the complexity rating attached to the enquiries, average handling time for each enquiry, and a unit charge. Licensing enquiries have been rated with a complexity of 3, (1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest level), the handling time has set at 19 minutes and the total enquiries for the year were stated to be 7,435. Thus, this formula determines the proportion of the total cost that is applicable to each service area. For the purpose of the Freedom of Information request the actual amount of the One Stop Shop Recharge apportioned to Taxi and Private Hire Licences for 2009/10 was based on the percentage of total employee time spent on Taxis which equated to 56%.
- 2.4 The recharge of the One Stop Shop Service to other departments is an 'uncontrollable budget' meaning that the service receiving the charge (in this case Licensing) is not able to directly affect the amount as the charges and costs are not incurred by themselves but are incurred by the department making the recharge (One Stop Shops) and it is simply a

proportion of the total charge which is then passed onto them. A budget is allocated to each department and then at the year end it is the actual cost that it then charged out. During the budget process each year the budget for the recharge is reviewed and amended in accordance with the latest percentage figures provided. This budget shows as a separate line within the receiving department's cost centre. The code and amount are shown within their normal range of codes for their cost centre but is solely for the purpose of allocating the One Stop Shop Service recharge and is not available for any other purpose.

- 2.5 To improve the accessibility of licensing services and to support the policy to migrate services to One Stop Shop Service, the licensing service has sought to develop the delivery of licensing services through the One Stop Shops. The recharge to Licensing reflects the early operation of the arrangements. The apportioned recharge and the service that is being provided are being reviewed. A further report will be brought to this Committee to advise Members of the outcome of that review.

3.0 FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising out of this report.

5.0 ANTI POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific anti poverty implications arising directly out of this report.

6.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific social inclusion implications arising directly out of this report.

7.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no local agenda implications arising out of this report.

8.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report affects the entire Borough.

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no community safety implications arising out of this report.

10.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no planning implications arising out of this report.

11.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 There are no background papers.

13.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

13.1 That members receive the budget report for consideration and request a further report concerning the outcome of the review of One Stop Shop recharges.

This report was prepared by Margaret O'Donnell who can be contacted on 0151 691 8606.

TAXI LICENCES - ACTUAL 2007-8 TO 2009-10

	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
<u>Employees</u>			
Pay + oncosts	154688	182,631	188,846
Job Evaluation paid in 9/10 but relating to 7/8 & 8/9			
<u>Other Employees</u>			
Pay (incl NI & Sup)	4544	4662	4675
<u>Other Expenditure</u>			
Public Transport	191	403	184
Car Allowances	2275	2123	3161
Plates etc	32934	26860	15157
Equipment	1557	486	2195
Clothing & Uniform		150	
Computer Equipment & Maintenance	5469	2360	1977
Printing & Stationery	416	225	858
Telephones	549	120	387
Advertising	352	254	153
Consultants	8707		870
Tech Services-payment for ranks		1500	
Departmental Estab Expenses	52622	54111	55555
One Stop Shop	714	735	37467
Total Expenditure	265018	276620	311485
<u>Income</u>			
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	147357	161317	162494
Private Hire Driver Licence	43336	46702	46418
Private Hire Operator Licence	11194	10453	10967
Hackney Vehicle Licence	46167	45559	44370
Hackney Driver Licence	14142	14336	14121
Total Income	262196	278367	278370
Net Expenditure/Income	2822	-1747	33115

N.B.Excess income is shown as a minus figure