

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

19TH FEBRUARY 2007

Review of Hackney Carriage Taxi Marshal Scheme

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To evaluate a report on the Taxi Marshal Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE:

2.1 A feasibility study be undertaken, including an investigation of possible sources of funding, to implement a permanent Taxi Marshal Scheme within the Wyre Forest District, on the basis described in paragraph 3.5. of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 West Mercia Constabulary made a proposal to the Community Safety Partnership in the strategy report for 2006 / 2007, recommending that a Taxi Marshal Scheme should be set up for a trial period in Dixon Street close to the premises of Mirage and DY10.

3.2 Both of these premises operate until 3.00 a.m. in the morning and have a full customer combined potential of 1,000 people.

3.3 At or near closing time, customers leave Mirage and DY10, to vie for Hackney Carriages waiting nearby.

- 3.4 Disputes have arisen and scuffles have regularly taken place, requiring constant Police attention. This area is consequently regarded in Crime and Disorder terms as being an area of some concern.

Taxi Marshall Scheme

- 3.5 West Mercia Constabulary and the Community Safety Partnership set up the following Taxi Marshall Scheme, with assistance from the Council's Licensing Officers. The scheme was implemented for a trial period from 1.30 a.m. – 3.30 a.m. from 1st December 2006 until 2nd January 2007.
- Two taxi Marshals were employed to supervise customer egress.
 - Two Door Supervisors, properly trained and authorised, via the Security Industry Authority, were employed by Mirage to supervise the egress of the public into Dixon Street, Kidderminster. They were identifiable to the public by wearing high visibility fluorescent jackets
 - A "Taxi Pick Up Point " sign was placed on the footpath outside of Mirage to inform the Public.
 - A temporary Hackney Carriage Rank was created in Green Street, Kidderminster, after midnight until 4am.
 - The cost of the trial was funded from the Community Safety Partnership.

4. KEY ISSUES

Scheme Appraisal

- 4.1 On Monday 2nd February 2007 the following stakeholders met at The Earl Baldwin Suite, Duke House, Kidderminster, to evaluate the Taxi Marshal Scheme:
- West Mercia Constabulary
 - Taxi Trade
 - Licensing officers
 - Mirage
- 4.2 Appraisals were given by the stakeholders and on balance of all considerations, they recommended that the Taxi Marshal Scheme was to be commended.

- 4.3. The Committee is, therefore, asked to agree to a study of the feasibility of implementing the scheme on a permanent basis.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATONS

- 5.1 There are immediate financial implications to consider and enquiries are underway with Head of Financial Services and the Community Safety Partnership.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Some legal work will be required to convert the temporary taxi rank at Green Street into a permanent night time Hackney Carriage rank.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Taxi Marshal scheme is deemed to be worthy of operation on a permanent basis providing that sufficient funding is available.

8. CONSULTEES

- 8.1 Head of Financial Services.
8.2 Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of the Taxi Marshal Stakeholder Meeting 2nd February 2007.

5th February 2007