

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

**Review of Hackney Carriage Taxi Marshal Scheme**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	None

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive a report on the financial operation of a Taxi Marshal Scheme.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is asked to DECIDE:**

- 2.1 In the light of the inability to secure funding for Taxi Marshalls the scheme should not proceed.**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 until 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **4. KEY ISSUES**

### **Scheme Appraisal**

- 4.1 On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 directed that a feasibility study should take place to see if the scheme could be funded on a permanent basis.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATONS**

The cost of the 6 week trial period was £960 funded from the Community Safety Partnership.

- To sustain this level every week end for the year would cost £8,320.
- To sustain this level on bank holidays for the year would cost £2,240.

5.1 Enquiries have been made of the following with regard to the possibility of securing future funding:

- Head of Financial Services
- Community Safety Partnership
- Chief Officer of Police for Kidderminster
- Premises owners at Mirage and DY 10

5.2 The Head of Financial Services has advised that the Council does not have a budget to support the scheme and none of the other organisations listed above are able to offer funding due to tight budget controls.

5.3 Officers will continue to explore possibilities of operating the scheme at Christmas and New Year should funding become available.

## **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None

## **7. CONCLUSION**

7.1 No funding can be identified to enable the Taxi Marshal scheme to proceed.

## **8. CONSULTEES**

8.1 Head of Financial Services.

8.2 Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None