

Title	New 6 months vehicle licences for vehicles over 5 years of age.
For further information about this report please contact	David Davies, Licensing Services Manager, Community Protection. Tel: 01926 456113. david.davies@warwickdc.gov.uk
Service Area	Community Protection
Wards of the District directly affected	None
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	14 th September 2009 by the Council's Regulatory Committee
Background Papers	None

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval

With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report author's relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	04/02/2010	Roger Jewsbury
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	04/02/2010	Peter Oliver
Finance	04/02/2010	Andy Crump
Portfolio Holder(s)	04/02/2010	Councillor Kirton

Consultation Undertaken

None

Final Decision?	No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)	
Recommendation to Council in report.	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Vehicles that are over 5 years old have to submit to an MOT/inspection every 6 months. The proposed new licence enables this to be monitored more effectively

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to recommend that their previous decision to introduce a six months licence for vehicles over 5 years of age should be ratified and recommended again to full Council.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 A previous recommendation to Council to introduce a new 6 months vehicle licence for all vehicles over 5 years old was referred back to the Regulatory Committee for further consideration.
- 3.2 Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles over the age of 5 years must have an MOT/inspection every 6 months.
- 3.3 Despite being reminded, owners do not always ensure that these tests are completed.
- 3.4 In order to allow Members to picture the difficulties, a copy of a reply to a driver enquiring about the new licence is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 It is proposed to introduce a 6 months vehicle licence for all vehicles when they reach 5 years of age. To renew this licence, the proprietor must produce an MOT/inspection certificate which has been completed no more than 3 weeks before the date of renewal.
- 3.6 Six monthly renewals will ensure that Inspection/MOTs are carried out on time and help to improve safety.
- 3.7 The current fee for a 12 months vehicle licence is £210. It is suggested that the fee for a six months licence is £130 to allow for the extra administration and the cost of the plate renewal. The fee will then be £130 every 6 months from the date of the first renewal after the vehicle becomes 5 years old from first registration. (Appendix 2)
- 3.8 Members are being asked to resubmit their recommendation to introduce the new licence and fee to Council at their next meeting on 28th April 2010.
- 3.9 Should members recommend the new licence and the attendant fee to Council and Council then approve the recommendation; the new fee would be consulted upon by placing an advertisement in a local paper, together with the increases on all other licences for 2010-2011, as required by legislation.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not to introduce the 6 monthly licences.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The extra fee would pay for the extra administration of the licences. This fee would be reviewed regularly, to ascertain whether the income meets the cost of administering these licences and the fee adjusted accordingly where it does not.

- 6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 This would change the Council's Policy on the issuing of licences to vehicles over 5 years of age.

APPENDIX 1

Of the last **46** inspection/MOTs due to be done on vehicles over 5 years old (i.e. 6 monthly ones) only **35 actually had them done**.

A vehicle licence, once issued may **not be revoked by officers**. In the event of an inspection/MOT not being completed when required, a report would have to be submitted to the Council's Regulatory Committee in order that the vehicle proprietor could attend and give his explanation for failing to comply. This meeting may possibly not be able to be arranged for 4 – 8 weeks.

If the Committee did revoke the licence, the proprietor has then 21 days to appeal the case to the magistrates. During this time, which could be between two to four months after the inspection was due, the vehicle could be used for transporting members of the public.

To avoid this, the only way forward is to introduce a six monthly licence. This will clearly involve an extra charge as extra plates, licences and administration is involved. The reason for the increased fee is directly to cover this extra cost of the licence, ensuring that all that can be done, has been done, in order to verify that licensed vehicles are safe for members of the travelling public.

Appendix 2

Extra cost (physical) for the intermediate licence

Rear vehicle plate	£7.80
Front vehicle plate	£3.40
<u>Total</u>	<u>£11.20</u>

Extra costs (time) for the intermediate licence

Issue reminders
Check documents
Print and issue plates and licence
Update FLARE record and scan in documents
Check for missing or incorrect documents

Total average time necessary is 60 minutes at £40 per hour (including on costs)

Total extra (£40 + £11.20) = £51.20

Due to imponderables such as vehicle changes, etc., it is impossible to estimate if any net income will be generated by this extra licence.

Should it become obvious in the future that extra income is being generated, a further report outlining this will be submitted outlining the figures.