

Wolverhampton City Council

Committee / Panel	<u>LICENSING COMMITTEE</u>	Date: 11/01/12
Originating Service Group(s)	<u>EDUCATION & ENTERPRISE</u>	
Contact Officer(s)/ Telephone Number(s)	<u>COLIN PARR</u> <u>0105</u>	
Title/Subject Matter	<u>HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES 2012</u>	

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- (i) Note the request of the Hackney Carriage trade associations relating to Hackney Carriage fares for 2012.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES 2012

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to:-

- (i) note the request of the Hackney Carriage trade Associations relating to Hackney Carriage fares for 2012.

2.0 Background

2.1 Under the provision of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the fares charged by Hackney Carriage services are determined and set by the Local Authority in which they are licensed to trade. The Local Authority has no legal power to control the fares charged by Private Hire Vehicles.

2.2 The current fares for Hackney Carriage services were initially agreed by Members on 21 January 2009 and were implemented on 6 February 2009.

2.3 A copy of the current fares is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2.4 The increase of 2009 was the first increase in fares since 2006 and fares increased by approximately 12%. To avoid sizable increases to taxi passengers in future Members requested that the issue of Hackney Carriage fares be reviewed annually through the Hackney Carriage Working Group.

2.5 The item was included on the agenda for the Hackney Carriage Working Group and no increase was requested by the trade for 2010 or 2011.

3.0 Trade Fares Request 2012

3.1 At the Hackney Carriage Working Group on 28 November 2011 the issue of Hackney Carriage fares for 2012 was included on the agenda, it was highlighted to the trade that there had been no increase in fares for almost three years.

3.2 Both the Taxi Owners Association (Wolverhampton) Ltd and the Wolverhampton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association agreed that given the current economic climate, they did not wish for the Council to pursue an increase in fares at this time. This was despite both associations acknowledging that their own costs had increased in the last twelve months, primarily due to increases in fuel costs.

3.3 The issue will be put before the working group again in November of this year, to consider fares for 2013.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this information report. (SH/23122011/S)

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. (ES//29/12/2011/Y)

6.0 Equalities Implications

6.1 There are potential equalities issues arising from this report, as any increase in taxi fares would have a negative impact on those from lower income groups, particularly vulnerable groups are often disproportionately reliant on taxi services.

7.0 Environmental Implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.