

**Wolverhampton City Council      OPEN INFORMATION ITEM**

Committee / Panel	<b><u>LICENSING COMMITTEE</u></b>	Date	<b>01/02/12</b>
Originating Service Group(s)	<b><u>EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISE DELIVERY</u></b>		
Contact Officer(s)/ Telephone Number(s)	<b><u>COLIN PARR</u> <u>0105</u></b>		
Title/Subject Matter	<b><u>FEES AND CHARGES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES FOR 2012/13</u></b>		

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**Recommendation**

Members are recommended to:-

- (i) Note the report relating to hackney carriage and private hire licences fees and charges for 2012/13.

**REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE  
AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES FOR 2012/13**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To note the proposed fees and charges for licences relating to hackney carriages, private hire vehicles, drivers and private hire vehicle operators for 2012/13.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 The Council is empowered by statute to levy fees and charges in respect of licences for hackney carriages, private hire vehicles, drivers and their operators. The fees charged must be reasonable in relation to costs incurred in the administration and enforcement of such licences. Council policy is that fees and charges should be reviewed annually and increased at least in line with the increased cost of providing the service.

**3.0 Current Level of Fees and Charges**

3.1 When Members considered the fees and charges for the current year (2011/12) they agreed that the fees and charges should be increased in line with the inflation rate at that time (1%).

**4.0 Proposals for 2012/13**

4.1 The proposals for 2012/13 have been developed in accordance with Council policy and the desire to minimise costs to the private hire and hackney carriage trade whilst ensuring that public safety is not compromised and the vehicle licensing function operates on a cost neutral basis.

4.2 During the course of 2007/08 a review of all income and expenditure associated with this area of activity was undertaken by officers from Environmental Services and Finance. This was to ensure only the true cost of the service is recovered and that expenditure/income is correctly apportioned.

4.3 It is proposed that the existing fees and charges for the current year 2011/12 remain unchanged for the coming year 2012/13. As the cost of providing the service would meet the budgetary requirements for 2012/13.

4.4 The cost of new and third year Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks are not covered by this report as they are determined by Criminal Records Bureau.

4.5 The fee currently charged for a standard CRB disclose is £32 this includes administration costs. The CRB has indicated that there is no proposal to increase the fee at this time. However, if the fee is increased this will automatically be passed onto drivers.

4.6 Worcestershire County Council in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council deliver the Driver Training Scheme for new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver applicants. Worcestershire County Council incur all the costs associated with the training and receive all the income from drivers.

4.7 Worcestershire County Council have indicated that they do not intend to increase their charges for 2012/13 due to the current economic climate.

4.8 Members are aware that the Council's Transport Division carries out the compliance tests and MOT's on all licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The cost of this service is recovered within the vehicle licence fees levied. Officers have been informed by the Fleet Manager that the charges for tests and MOT's will not be increased in 2012/13 and will remain in line with the fees recommended by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. The charge in relation to a 'stand-alone' compliance test or MOT will remain the same as 2010/11 and 2011/12.

#### 5.0 **Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this information report. [SH/20012012/H].

#### 6.0 **Financial Implications**

6.1 It is envisaged that although it is proposed not to increase the fees and charges for the coming year 2012/13, the costs of providing the service will be met providing the number of licences remain at the current level. [JJ/20012012/A]

#### 7.0 **Environmental Implications**

7.1 The pricing structure for vehicles may act as an incentive for proprietors and operators to use newer vehicles which are generally less polluting than older vehicles.

#### 8.0 **Equalities Implications**

8.1 There are equalities implications arising from this report in that the reduced fees for persons on Job Seekers Allowance directly benefit potentially lower income applicants.