

**TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
10 JANUARY 2013**

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**HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCE FEES  
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 At the meeting of 11 October 2012 the Committee agreed to put out for public consultation proposed increases in the fees for hackney carriage, operator and private hire vehicle licences. This consultation finished on 4 January 2013 and officers will bring to the meeting the results of that consultation.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Committee considers any objections to the proposed increases and confirms the fees as set out in Annex A to take effect for licences commencing from 1 April 2013 onwards.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The recommendation recognises the requirements placed upon the Council in respect of setting such fees. If an objection is received, then in accordance with the legal requirements the objection must be considered and the Committee must decide on the fee to be set from 1 April 2013.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 There is no alternative option that would meet the legal requirements within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Fees proposed to be charged for the licensing of hackney carriages, private hire vehicles and private hire operators are required by Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to be advertised in a local paper with a period of 28 days from the date of publication to allow for objections to the proposals to be made. Objections must be made in writing and received at Time Square.
- 5.2 On Thursday 6 December 2012 a notice was published in the Standard newspaper. A copy of that notice is attached to this report as Annex A. The notice required that any objections be received by Friday 4 January 2013. The feedback from this consultation will be reported orally so that members can consider whether or not to change their proposals as agreed at the meeting on 11 October and consulted on. If changes are made we do not need to re-consult.
- 5.3 The Council gave guidance that fees and charges should be increased on average by 2.5%, the inflation rate. These fees were increased between 2.4 and 2.6% which reflects the rounding up of charges to the nearest pound.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 The legal implications are identified within the report.

### Borough Treasurer

6.2 Proposed increases in fee income are included in the provision for inflation calculation in the 2013/14 budget setting process.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Members of the public, businesses and representatives of the taxi trade.

### Method of Consultation

7.2 Notice within the Standard newspaper in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

### Representations Received

7.3

### Background Papers

### Contact for further information

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