

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>REGULATORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>6 OCTOBER 2009</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES FOR 2009/2010</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; CULTURE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider the annual review of Hackney Carriage fares

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision

### **Legal Implications**

2. Section 65(1) The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the local authority to fix the rates/fares within the Authority for time, distance and all other charges in connection with the fare of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, by means of a table of fares.
3. Section 65(2)(a) dictates a minimum of 14 day period of advertisement, if no objections are received fare changes can take effect from the specified date, if objections are made or if objections are not withdrawn the Local Authority shall set a further date not later than two months after the date specified for the changes in fares to take effect following consideration of the objections at Regulatory Committee.

### **Key Points Summary**

- An early review took place on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008 due to a price increase in fuel costs.
- The present fees were agreed at that meeting. (Appendix 1).
- Chairman of the Taxi Association e-mailed on the 16.9.09 stating the Taxi Association had voted for a freeze on the current fare.
- Prices reached a peak in August 2008 of £125.6 and as of August 2009 the price is £106.8

(both figures are for diesel).

- An advert will be placed for a period of two weeks for consultation; this will take place after the Committee's Decision today.

## Introduction and Background

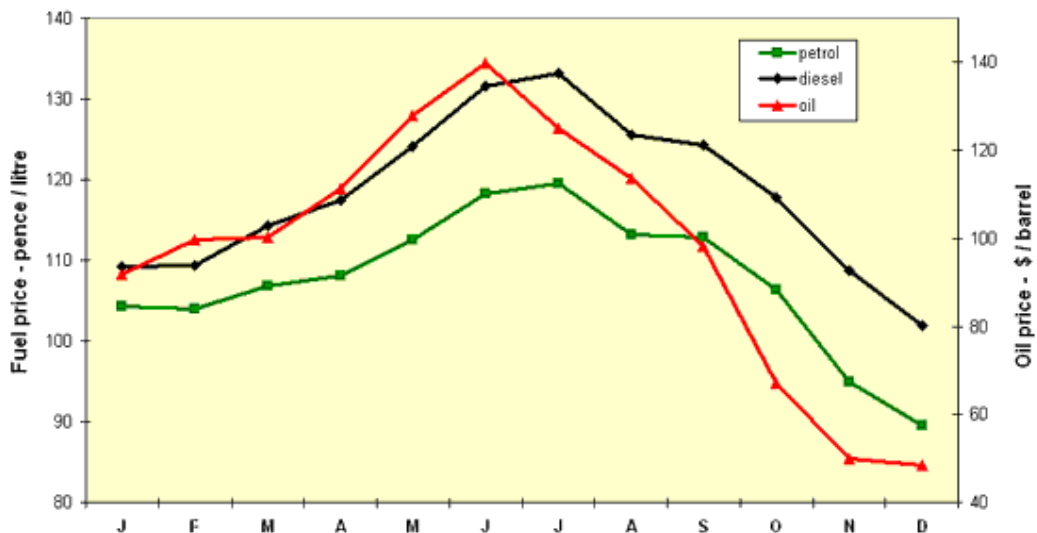
- a) An early review took place on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008 due to the sudden rise in fuel prices up until August 2008, when it then began to fall.

- b) The following is the decision notice from the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008:-

The request for a taxi fares increase be accepted as set out above and that providing that there are no public objections during the consultation period ending 4 September 2008; implementation of the increase on 8 September 2008 be delegated to the Acting Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards. If any objections are received, the matter will be brought back to the Committee for further consideration.

- c) The Taxi Association requested that the fare remain unaltered for the period 2009-2010.

- d) Prices reached a peak in August 2008 and the following graph (source AA) indicates the trend in fuel price for the period covering 2008:-



- e) When a decision is made an advert will be placed in the local press for a period of two weeks for any objections to be received. If there are no public objections during the consultation period, acting under delegated powers, the Acting Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards will set the agreed fees.
- f) If any objections are received the matter should be brought back to the Regulatory Committee in November 2009.
- g) Following the increase in August 2008, representation was received from the Royal National College for the Blind (RNCB) who was concerned that for many of the people they represent, taxis form the main form of transport available to them.

## Key Considerations

4. If the fares should remain unaltered or have a change either by increase or decrease.

## Recommendation(s)

5. **THAT Committee:**
  - (a) **The committee should reach a decision based on the content of the report and any information received during the meeting.**

## Reasons for Recommendations

6. The licensing authority believes it has considered carefully current trends in prices of fuel, and in accordance with the relevant Legislation, fulfils the Local Authorities main aim of protecting public safety.

## Alternative Options

7. **a) The fares be left the same.**  
**Advantages:** This option is the preferred of the Taxi Association.  
**Disadvantages:** Changing the conditions may compromise the Council's legislative powers.
- b) To defer the decision in order to get more information**  
The Committee could make a decision to defer the decision, this will allow further information to be considered and advice given.  
**Advantages:** Gives the opportunity for further information to be sought.  
**Disadvantages:** This would delay the decision process and will incur further costs.
- c) To reach some other decision**  
**Advantages:** This leaves other options open to the Committee to resolve the matter.  
**Disadvantages:** There are no clear directions from the Environmental Health Manager in respect of the application.

## Community Impact

8. It is felt that any decision made will have very little on the community.

## Financial Implications

9. Not applicable

## Appendices

10. Appendix 1 – Taxi fare sheet 2008 – 2009  
Appendix 2 - Table of effect of % changes

## Background Papers

11. No background papers are available.