

MEETING:	REGULATORY COMMITTEE
DATE:	15 NOVEMBER 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES FOR 2011/2012
PORTFOLIO AREA:	HEALTH & WELLBEING SERVICE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider a review of Hackney Carriage fares.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

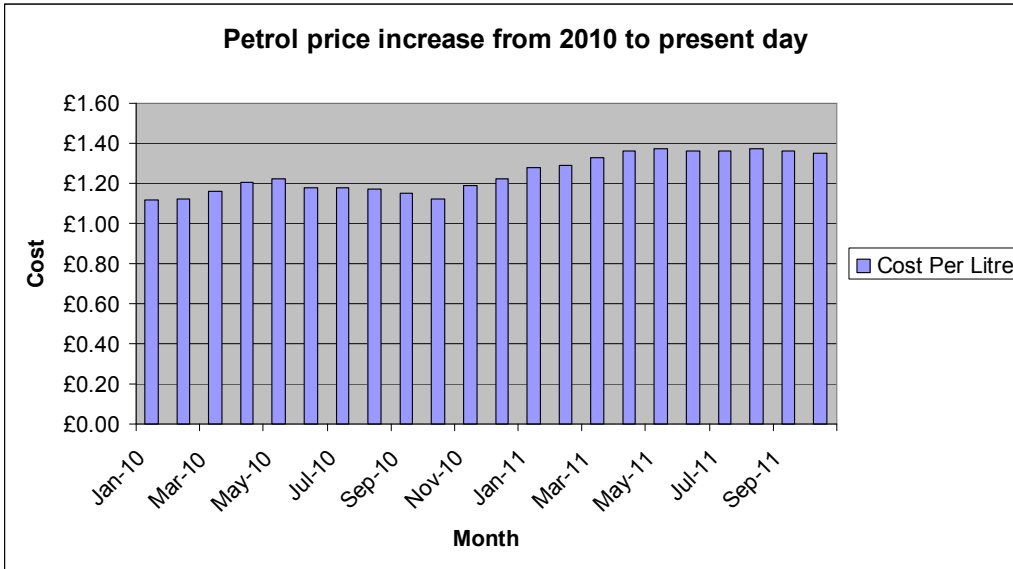
Legal Implications

2. Section 65(1) of 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 14 day period for consultation. If no objections are received then fare changes can take effect from the specified date. If objections are made or if objections are not withdrawn the Local Authority must set a further date not later than two months after the date specified for the changes in fares to take effect, following consideration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 the Regulatory Committee.

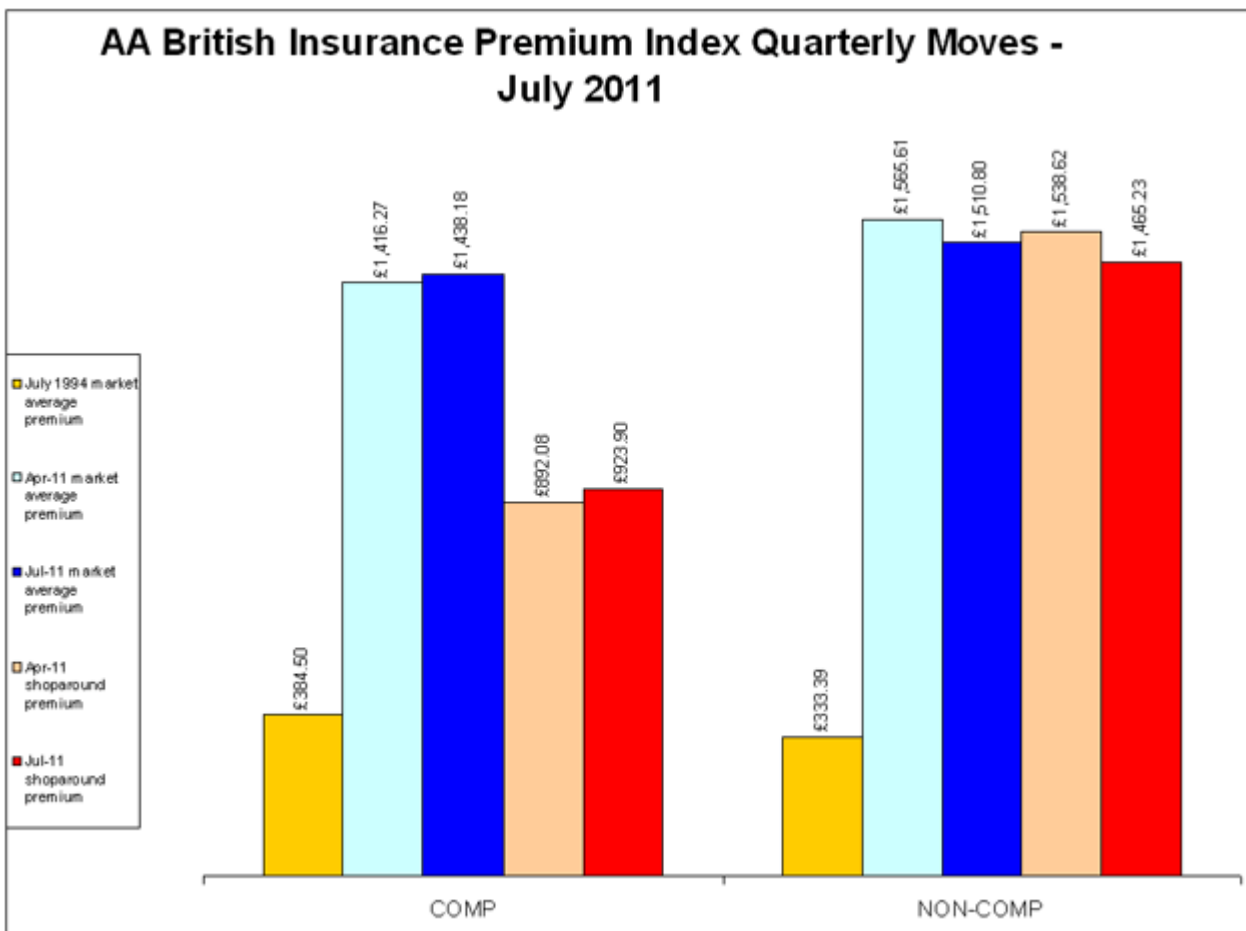
Key Points Summary

- A request for increase was received from the Taxi Association for a review of the taxi fares.
- There was no increase in taxi fares during the period 2010/2011. The last time the fares were increased was in August 2008.
- A second advert was placed for a period of one week with two weeks consultation; This re-advert was necessary to comply with the legislation as the original advert did not have the correct dates for objections. This was an error on the part of the Agency who the Council uses to advertise.

- No objections had been received at the time of writing the report. Therefore, the date of commencement will be 17th November 2011.
- Fuel price trend is shown as a graph.



- Car Insurance price trend shown as a graph. Over 12 months the premium has risen by 30.1%. Price rise now falling slowly.



Key Considerations

4. If the fares should remain unaltered or reset, as a change either by increase or decrease.

Recommendation(s)

5. THAT Committee:
 - (a) Review the information within this report and consider any additional information provided at this Hearing.

Reasons for Recommendations

6. The licensing authority believes it has carefully considered current trends in local fuel prices and increases in insurance costs. In accordance with the relevant legislation, it wishes to fulfil the Local Authority's obligation to set a maximum fare for Hackney Carriages.

Alternative Options

a) The fares be increased as presented.

Advantages: This option is preferred by the Taxi Association.

Disadvantages: The Trade report that business is slow at present, any increase could further depress the market.

Reason for rejection: Although this has been considered it has not been recommended as the Licensing Authority it is appropriate to increase the fares as there has been no rise since 2009.

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.

Reason for rejection: It is felt that any information required to reach a decision has been provided within the report or can be discussed during the present meeting.

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 Head of Environmental Health & Trading standards in respect of the application.

Reason for rejection: It is difficult to envisage what other decision could be reached.

Community Impact

7. It is felt that any decision made will have a measurable financial impact on both the taxi users and the trade within the community.

Financial Implications

8. Not applicable for Council.

Appendices

9. Appendix 1 – Taxi fare sheet 2011 - 2012

Appendix 2 – AA cost of running a domestic vehicle.

Background Papers

10. No background papers are available.