



# Walsall Council

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**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
**TO A MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008 @ 6.00PM**  
**PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise members of an objection to the proposed hackney carriage fare increase as recommended by this committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Committee consider the submitted objection and decide whether to modify the table of fares in light of the objection, or to implement the fare table as originally proposed and to come into effect on a new date within two months of the original date (namely 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008).

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Legal Services Consulted: No.
- 5.2 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits a district council to fix the rates or fares within the district as well for a time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a

table of fares made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- 5.3 When a district council varies a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall be not less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the variations can be made. The notice shall also at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment at the council offices.
- 5.4 If no objections are received within the period the variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice. Where objections are duly made the district council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by the council after consideration of the objections.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 On the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 the licensing authority published the proposed table of fares in the Express & Star newspaper. This also gave the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 as the last date for objections to be received. The advert is given as Appendix 1
- 6.2 The proposed table of fares was also displayed on the Walsall Council web site, at the Civic Centre, on the town hall notice board, and in the reception area of the taxi licensing unit.
- 6.3 On the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 an objection to the proposed fare increase was received from the trading standards unit of Walsall Council, this is given as Appendix 2.
- 6.4 Consequently the proposed table of fares could not come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 as advertised.
- 6.5 On the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 the licensing unit received a letter from the Walsall Taxi Federation this was submitted for consideration at the meeting and is given as Appendix 3.
- 6.6 It should be noted that following comments made from two taxi meter manufacturers the implemented table of fares will need to be amended slightly however, this does not impinge on the proposed fare increase of 30% or the proposed tariff times.

## **7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 None.

**8.0    WARD(S) AFFECTED**

8.1    All.

**9.0.   CONTACT OFFICER**

9.1.   Steven Knapper – Principal Licensing Officer. Ext. 2221