

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

21st April 2011

Increase of Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing Fees and charges for 2011/2012

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (On behalf of Wyre Forest DC)
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APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Letter of objection

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an objection received by the Licencing Office from Members of the Wyre Forest Taxi Trade relating to the proposed increase in Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing fees and charges for 2011/2012.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 **Consider the objection received in response to the public notice dated 10th March 2011 and endorse the increase in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licence fees and charges by 3% as set out in the Council's 2011/2012 budget strategy.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's current financial strategy in respect of fees and charges is to increase them in line with inflation or slightly above. The increase agreed by full Council on 23rd February 2011 for 2011/2012 was for 3%.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Following the agreement of full Council on the 23rd February 2011 to increase the Licensing Fees and Charges (as per the Council's budget strategy), a public notice was placed in the local press on the 10th March 2011 advertising the new fees and charges in accordance with the section 70 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976.

- 4.2 On the 6th April 2011, one standard worded letter objecting to the increase in fees and charges was received by the Licence Office, which had been copied and signed by 30 members of the Wyre Forest Taxi trade. A copy of the objection letter is attached at Appendix 1.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It has been agreed that licensing fees and charges will be increased by 3% (rounded up, where appropriate).
- 5.2 The budget forecast details the costs versus income for taxi licensing as follows: the costs are based on 2010/11 as no detailed figures are available for the coming year but overall costs for regulatory services have risen for 2011/12 (accountancy information) and so there is confidence is using this figure.

Total costs including employee and support costs	£90,150
Total projected income	£77,120 (actual)

This would indicate a loss of £13,030 on the year.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The agreed income to be generated by the proposed licence fees and charges is in line with current policy and the council is not projected to make any profit on the taxi account for the forthcoming year.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that the licensed trade could challenge the Council's Licensing fees and charges that are set. To minimise this risk the licensing fees and charges must be designed to meet but not exceed, the cost that the Council reasonably believes will be incurred in issuing of licences and the administration of the licensing service.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no equality assessment issues arising from this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 All relevant objections received within the prescribed 28 day notice period set out in the public notice dated 10 March 2011 in relation to Licensing Fee's and charges must be considered by the Council.
- 9.2 The fees and charges are non-profit making and Cost Centres will reflect the operation of the service.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Director of Resources.
- 10.2 Director of Legal and Corporate Service.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Full Council committee report and resolution 23rd February 2011 approving the 3% increase of Licensing fees and charges for 2011/2012.