

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE****REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE****23.02.10****TITLE : REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE FEES****1. PURPOSE**

To inform members of a proposed increase in private hire and hackney carriage licence fees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the report and forward comments in respect of the revised fees to the Finance Council

3. KEY ISSUES

The licence fees relating to the above were last increased on 1st April 2011. The proposed fees will be submitted to a meeting of the Finance Council, subject to consultation by the Licensing committee, and advertising in accordance with section 70(3) of the Local Government Act 1976.

4. RATIONALE

The reviews of fees and charges are an annual process. There is a statutory consultation process which started in January in order that the revised fees can be in place for April. The fees were advertised in the Lancashire Telegraph on 16th January 2012. The proposed fees are attached in appendix 1

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The attached report has been compiled and reflects an increase in across all Hackney Carriage and Private hire fees. The proposed increases should meet the budget proposals currently being considered by the Council for the 2012/ 13 revenue budget.

The review of fees will be considered by the Licensing Committee as experts in this area, and will be ratified at the Finance Council in March 2012.

The expertise of the Licensing Committee in this area of work is recognised, The Licensing Committee should consider the proposed fees and their observations will be forwarded to the Finance Council as part of the consultation process.

Members will consider any objections received as a result of the consultation process there are statutory obligations in respect of consultation. The revised fees will come into effect from 1st April 2012

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposals have been considered as part of the budgetary process and reflect an increase in the fee payable to the Council of an average of 2.9%

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a notice must be published in a least one local newspaper circulating in the area setting out the proposed variations, and specifying the period, which shall not be less than 28 days from the date of the publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which the objections to the variation can be made.

A copy of the notice referred to in the previous paragraph shall be for the period of 28 days from the date of the publication, be deposited at the offices of the Council, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. CONSULTATIONS

In accordance with Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a notice must be published in a least one local newspaper circulating in the area setting out the proposed variations, and specifying the period, which shall not be less than 28 days from the date of the publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which the objections to the variation can be made.

A copy of the notice referred to in the previous paragraph shall be for the period of 28 days from the date of the publication, be deposited at the offices of the Council, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.

A letter with a copy of the proposed fees has been sent to all operators. A meeting of the Taxi Forum was held on 2nd February 2012. The members who attended verbally stated they wanted the fees remain unchanged for this year, as all their other running costs had increased. A letter of objection was submitted at that meeting from the Chairman of the Blackburn with Darwen Hackney Carriage Association. Please see appendix 2 and a further letter of objections was received from the Hackney Carriage Association and that letter can be found at appendix 3

10 . CONTACT OFFICER

Donna Riding – Principal Licensing Officer
Telephone 01254 222505

THE HACKNEY DRIVERS ASSOCIATION LTD

BOLTON, BURY, BURNLEY, PRESTON, CHORLEY, WIGAN COUNCIL,
BLACKBURN, OLDHAM, HACKNEY ASSOCIATION, (INCORPORATING,
PRESTON, HACKNEY CARRIAGE), ASSOCIATION, & BURNLEY
HACKNEY OWNERS ASSOCIATION), ROCHDALE

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Mrs. Donna Riding
Principal Licensing Officer
Public Protection Service,
L Floor Tower Black
Blackburn BB1 7DY.

Objection to the Variations in Council Fees 2012/2013

Dear Mrs. Riding,

We The hackney Drivers Association Ltd, hereby object to the increase in fees charged by the council, in to days climate were all are having to look were we can save money the down word trend in work across the uk in the taxi trade, and the lack for foresight of some parts of the trade over the years as left Blackburn Hackney trade at rock bottom, with work at an all time low.

The changing face of Blackburn may well bring in welcome new Businesses and shoppers, visitors to the town centre, the taxi trade faces an unknown change itself with changes in the law that, starting April 2012 with a report to government late 2013, the trade is facing big increase in fuel, around now £1.40a lire, and big increase in the cost of insurance this year, the council as maintained it as all ways wished as far as possible to help the trade well this is one way it can help all in the trade and just not the few.

Yours Sincerely,

C. Oakes

Chairman The Hackney Drivers Association, ltd

bbha@btinternet.com

The Hackney drivers Association ltd, Reg office 38 Shireburn Ave Tongfold Bolton, BL2 2SX,
Company No 6919511.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Proposed increase in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees
effective from 1st April 2012

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council being the authority for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, in accordance with Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE of the proposed variations to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees.

A copy of the proposed variations can be inspected at the Licensing Section, Transport Services Division, Davyfield Road Blackburn between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on normal working days.

Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the proposed variations, with reasons for the objection, within 28 days from the date of publication of the newspaper in which this notice appears.

Such notice of objection should be given to Donna Riding, Principal Licensing Officer, Public Protection Service, L Floor, Tower Block, Blackburn BB1 7DY.

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Fees and Charges

	Current £	Proposed - £
Private hire vehicle licence (12 months)	185.80	191.19
Private hire vehicle licence (6 months)	101.35	104.29
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (12 months)	223.85	230.34
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (6 months)	121.55	125.07
<i>NB if unmet demand survey commissioned hackney carriage vehicle licence fees will incur a surcharge of £25</i>		
<i>20% reduction for vehicles powered by LPG</i>		
Private Hire Vehicle Operator Licences		
Licence fee to incorporate flat fee plus additional fee determined by vehicle number.		
Operator Flat Fee	179.50	184.71
Vehicle number top up fee per vehicle	22.15	22.79
Change of operator	as new	
Change of Vehicle	as new	
Private hire vehicle driver licence	61.80	63.59
Hackney carriage vehicle driver licence	61.80	63.59
1 hour test (with MOT)	59.25	60.97
1 Hour re-test (with MOT)	39.15	40.29
1/2 hour re-test	30.90	31.80
Suspension lift	50.70	52.17
Knowledge	16.50	16.98
CRB	44.00	45.35
Transfer of vehicle ownership	15.45	15.90
Replacement Badge 14.5	15.45	15.90
Customer copy record	11.85	12.19
Council issued door stickers	6.20	6.38
Plate fee	9.00	9.26
Plate holder	20.60	21.20
Copy of licensing register	60.80	62.56