



## ADDENDUM CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO RAISE PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS, HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS, PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS AND VEHICLE LICENCE FEES.</b>
---------------------	--

**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	20 May 2009 (reconvened on 10 June 2009)
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Listed on Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Environment and Culture
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Trini Crake
<b>Ward(s)</b>	N/A

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To submit a document originally omitted from the Agenda Pack
- 1.2 To provide clarification of the new proposed fees to the objectors

### 2. Recommendations

#### Additional recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet considers the letter of Objection attached to this report and pays due regard to it.
- 2.2 In the event that Cabinet rejects the objections and approves the recommendation to increase the fees, these be implemented on a date to be resolved by Cabinet which needs to be after 10 June 2009 and no later than 30 June 2009.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

---

#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 This report introduces additional information that was omitted from the report first published on 12 May 2009 as part of the papers for the Cabinet meeting on 20 May 2009. This comprises a letter of objection from Mr Kevin Willsher and clarification by the Borough Council of financial data.
- 3.1.2 The Cabinet meeting held on 20 May was adjourned until 10 June to allow for the additional information to be added to the papers and to consider any legal issues raised by a representative of the objector.
- 3.1.3 Cabinet need to consider the outstanding objections by letters dated 2 April 2009 from Mr Willsher (Appendix 1 Supp of this report) and 19 March 2009 from Mr Kelly (Appendix 2 of the original report). Cabinet should note that the objection dated 16 March 2009 (Mr Walton) has been formally withdrawn and therefore is not relevant for the purposes of this report.

Whilst officers' responses were sent to the objectors in an attempt to explain the position and to invite withdrawal of the objections, Cabinet needs to be clear that consideration of the objections is a matter for Cabinet at this meeting.

3.1.4 The main objections relate to

- (i) The true cost of providing the service
- (ii) The reasonableness of the decision to raise the fees
- (iii) Excessive increases
- (iv) The link to the Retail Price Index
- (v) Use of comparative data from other local authorities

Each of the above objections have been considered and responded to in the responses to the Objectors (attached to the original report).

Following the Cabinet meeting 20 May 2009 officers have provided a further breakdown of financial data upon which the fees increases have been based.

Cabinet is referred to paragraph 4.4 of the report, which has come from finance on the breakdown of the figures. Cabinet should note that the proposed fees are less than the actual cost of the service.

Cabinet is referred to the officers' responses found in Appendix 3 of the original report which addresses the objections, consequently Cabinet is recommended to determine the objections and to reject them for the reasons outlined in the officers responses.

#### **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 Supplementary to the original report, concerns were raised by Mr Alan Fidler for and on behalf of the Northampton Private Hire Association and Northampton Hackney Carriage Association and these were responded to by the Borough Council (Appendix 2 supp of this report). Strictly speaking, the comments from Mr Fidler were outside of the objection period and have not

been treated as formal objections. However, insofar as the comments relate to legal submissions these have been considered as part of this report.

### **3.3 Choices (Options)**

- 3.3.1 To enable the already approved 2009/10 budget not to be exceeded, to approve the increase in licence fees as per the original report, with the exception of the additional increases suggested in Appendix 3.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

---

### **4.1 Policy**

As original Report

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

As original Report

### **4.3 Legal**

These are contained within the original report and this addendum report.

### **4.4 Finance**

The Council was originally expecting a net cost of £22,617 as set in the 2009/10 budget, as per Appendix 1 of the 20<sup>th</sup> May Cabinet report. The report did not however take account of the income recovered using the revised fees. The implication of introducing these fees meant a further under recovery of income to the value of £13,567, due to lower fees than originally anticipated. This means the net cost of running the section, based on the revised fees, would have been £36,184.

If the new revised fees, stated in Appendix 3, are agreed this would improve the Council's position and lead to a net cost for the service of £21,570. This therefore means that whilst the taxi fee income is still not fully recovered against the cost of the service, setting the fees at the proposed level will deliver a small saving of £1,140 against the 2009/10 net budget.

### **4.5 Equality**

As original Report

### **4.6 Consultees (Internal and External)**

As original Report

### **4.7 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

As original Report

### **4.8 Other Implications**

As original Report

## **5. Background Papers**

---

### **5.1 As original Report**

Mehboob Kassam, Solicitor. Extension 7043