

Outcome of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators and Vehicle Licence Fees Consultation

Background

In accordance with Section 70 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council is required to undertake a statutory 28 day consultation when variations to operators and vehicle licence fees are proposed.

The proposed fees for 2022/23 were discussed at the Joint Public Protection Committee meeting held on the [13th September 2021](#). The Joint Public Protection Committee (JPPC) is required by the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) that set up the Public Protection Partnership (PPP) shared service to recommend a draft set of fees and charges to each of the member Councils (Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire and Wokingham).

At the meeting of the Joint Public Protection Committee in December 2017 it was agreed that as a matter of principle that all fees and charges should be set on the basis of full cost recovery. For 2021/22 the full cost of the service, including internal support service re-charges and the current establishment lists were updated which resulted in a new rate of £59 p/h. It is proposed to maintain the hourly rate at £59p/h for 2022/23.

West Berkshire Council's Licensing Committee considered the draft fees at a meeting held on the [08 November 2021](#). It was noted at the Committee that there had been an overall reduction in the fees. This was due to the fact that the new IT system being implemented in the new year would allow for significant efficiencies to be made in some areas, and these efficiencies would be passed on to the trade. In addition Members of the taxi trade had fed back that they had concerns about the additional cost of mandatory safeguarding and disability training. This training would be delivered by Officers in the 2022/23 year and the cost would therefore be included in the annual fee.

The Committee agreed that the fees for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators are subjected to a twenty eight day statutory consultation period.

The proposed fees that have been consulted on under the legislation are set out below:

Hackney carriage vehicle new / renewal	£266.00/ £236.00
Private hire vehicle new / renewal	£266.00/ £236.00
Home to School vehicle new / renewal *	£148.00
Private hire vehicle with dispensation / renewal	£266.00/ £236.00
Temporary Vehicle Licence (issued up to 3 months Maximum)	£236.00

* These fees are only applicable in Bracknell Forest area.

Private hire operator licence		
Number of vehicles	New	Renewal
1	£443.00	£325.00
2	£516.00	£398.00
3	£590.00	£472.00
4	£664.00	£546.00
5	£738.00	£620.00
6	£811.00	£693.00
7	£885.00	£767.00
8	£959.00	£841.00
9	£1,033.00	£915.00
10	£1,106.00	£988.00
11	£1,180.00	£1,062.00
12	£1,254.00	£1,136.00
13	£1,328.00	£1,210.00
14	£1,401.00	£1,283.00
15	£1,475.00	£1,357.00
16	£1,549.00	£1,431.00
17	£1,623.00	£1,505.00
18	£1,696.00	£1,578.00
19	£1,770.00	£1,652.00
20	£1,844.00	£1,726.00
20+	£1,844.00	£1,726.00
Variation to licence	£59:00	£59.00

Who and How we Consulted

- The consultation ran from 18 November 2021 to 16 December 2021.
- A notice was placed in the Newbury Weekly News and the Reading Chronicle on the 18 November 2021 and on the Public Protection Partnership’s website on the same day.
- The consultation was also posted on the West Berkshire Council consultation pages and an email notification sent to the 1,061 members of the community panel.
- A copy of the notice was also placed in the Market Street Reception on the 18 November 2021.
- A copy of the notice was emailed individually to all licensed Hackney Carriage Proprietors for their comments.

What you Told Us

We have had two responses to the consultation which were both submitted by members of the public. One member of the trade also sought confirmation that the home to school fees were not applicable in West Berkshire and this was confirmed to them. Summary of the comments received



The fee structure should assist the Council in meeting its climate action plan for the district.

The council should be radical and implement a licencing structure where zero emission taxis have a zero rated licence fee and the rating for other vehicles should be aligned so the biggest polluting vehicles pay the most.

WBC having declared a climate emergency, they should incentivise taxi companies to move their fleets to EVs. There should be zero charge for 100% electric taxis. If necessary the charges for petrol and diesel vehicles could be adjusted upwards to compensate.

What We Are Proposing To Do

Section 70 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out the requirements when variations to operators and vehicle licence fees are proposed. This legislation also prescribes the statutory consultation process that must be followed and the procedures for ensuring that objections are properly considered.

Members, at the 08 November 2021 Licensing Committee meeting agreed that if objections are received they be considered by the Licensing Committee meeting on 31 January 2022 and any changes be recommended to full Council for approval at the [March 2022 Council](#) meeting.

As comments on the fees for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators have been received they were discussed at the [31 January 2022](#) meeting and the Licensing Committee have recommended that full Council adopt the fees as advertised when they meet on the 03 March 2022. The only exception being the DBS fees which will be reduced to £79.