

Outcome of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators and Vehicle Licence Fees Consultation - 2024

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 hackney carriage and private hire operators and vehicle licence fees are proposed.

The proposed fees for 2025/26 were discussed at the Joint Public Protection Committee meeting held on the [11 October 2024](#). 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 both of the member councils which includes West Berkshire Council.

At the meeting of the Joint Public Protection Committee in December 2017 it was agreed that as a matter of principle all fees and charges should be set on the basis of full cost recovery.

West Berkshire Council's Licensing Committee considered the proposed fees at a meeting held on Monday, [04 November 2024](#).

The Licensing Committee agreed that save for the, hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator's fees, all other fees would go forward for consideration as part of the council's fee setting process, with the final determination to be made at the Full Council meeting on Thursday, [27 February 2025](#)

The hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator's fees would be subjected to the statutory consultation process.

It was proposed to increase the hourly rate from £67p/h to £69/h for 2025/26 (increase of 3%) The proposed 2025/26 statutory fees that we consulted on are set out below:

Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Vehicle Licence

Hackney carriage vehicle new / renewal	£310.50/£276
Private hire vehicle new / renewal	£310.50/£276
Home to School vehicle new / renewal	£172.50
Private hire vehicle with dispensation new/ renewal	£310.50/£276
Temporary Vehicle Licence (issued up to 3 months Maximum)	£276

Private Hire Operator Licence

	Number of vehicles	New	Renewal
New Per vehicle calculation of 3.5 hours (at £69.00 hourly rate) plus an hour per year (years 2-5) for first vehicle, plus 15 minutes per additional vehicle per years (years 1-5) up to a maximum of 20 vehicles	1	£517.50	£379.50
	2	£603.75	£465.75
	3	£690	£552
	4	£776.25	£638.25
	5	£862.50	£724.50
	6	£948.75	£810.75
	7	£1035	£897
	8	£1121.25	£983.25
	9	£1207.50	£1069.50
	10	£1293.75	£1155.75
	11	£1380	£1242
	12	£1466.25	£1328.25



A shared service provided by
Bracknell Forest Council and
West Berkshire Council



Renewal Per vehicle calculation of 1.5 hours (at £69 hourly rate) plus an hour per year (years 2-5) for first vehicle, plus 15 minutes per additional vehicle per years (years 1-5) up to a maximum of 20 vehicles	13	£1552.50	£1414.50
	14	£1638.75	£1500.75
	15	£1725	£1587
	16	£1811.25	£1673.25
	17	£1897.50	£1759.50
	18	£1983.75	£1845.75
	19	£2070	£1932
	20	£2156.25	£2018.25
	20+	£2156.25	£2018.25
	Variation to licence	£69	£69

Who and How we Consulted

- a) The consultation period ran from 21 November 2024 to 19 December 2024.
- b) A public notice pertaining to the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators fees was placed in the Newbury Weekly News on the 21 November 2024.
- c) A consultation letter was posted to all Taxi and Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators in the District.
- d) A copy of the consultation was posted on the Public Protection Partnership website, on the West Berkshire Council Consultation Hub and in the reception area at the Market Street Offices on the 21 November 2024.
- e) 1185 members of the community panel who have expressed an interest in the topic of roads and transport were contacted on the 22 November 2024
- f) The consultation was supported by a press release on 19 November 2024 and social media posts.

What you Told Us

We received six response to the consultation during the consultation period, two were from members of the community panel and four were from members of the trade.

The responses are set out below.



A shared service provided by
Bracknell Forest Council and
West Berkshire Council



<p>Comment</p> <p>Response 1: Consultation Panel</p> <p>I am someone who extremely infrequently uses Hackney carriages and only use private hire a few times a year.</p> <p>My opinion is that the council is right to look at recovering their costs with operators paying for the requirements they need to operate their business.</p> <p>The council may need to bear in mind the likely increase in fares. That in turn will undoubtedly initiate a knock on effect of increased fares for those people depending on using those services, so perhaps some of the increased revenue should go towards Community transport schemes?</p>
<p>Response 2: Consultation Panel</p> <p>As a standard member of the public I would condone the planned increases to Hackney carriage & private hire licensing.</p>
<p>Response 3 Trade Member</p> <p>I would like to object to increase in fees proposed, I don't feel we get value for money on fees we pay at the moment unnecessary increases in the current financial climate will just contribute to the cost of living and at this point an increase is not needed .</p>
<p>Response 4 Trade Member</p> <p>I object to the price increase.</p>
<p>Response 5 Trade Member</p> <p>Sharing my objection against the new proposed fee increase of the vehicle licenses.</p>

Response 6
Trade Member

I x (redacted) plate no x (redacted). I would prefer not to increase the fees and would like to keep the same fees.

What Happens Next?

Section 70 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out the requirements when variations to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator's 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 agreed at the 04 November 2024 Licensing Committee that if any objections to the hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator's fees were received, they be considered by the Committee at the meeting on [20 January 2025](#) and that any ensuing changes would then be recommended to full Council for approval. Council will discuss and agree the fees and charges at the meeting on 27 February 2025

As objections have been received a discussion will take place at the 20 January 2025 Licensing Committee meeting. The Committee will be asked to recommend that Full Council adopt the fees, with or without modification, as part of the annual fee setting process and that these fees come into effect as of the 01 April 2025.

The trade will be kept informed throughout the process.



A shared service provided by
Bracknell Forest Council and
West Berkshire Council

