
Variations to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operator's Fees

Committee considering report:	Licensing Committee
Date of Committee:	24 March 2026
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Tom McCann
Report Author:	Moira Fraser
Forward Plan Ref:	LC

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To note that as no objections to the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operator's Fees were received during the statutory 28 day consultation period they were recommended to full Council for approval without modification where they were adopted.

2 Recommendation

The Licensing Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 **NOTE** the comments received during the statutory consultation on variations to hackney carriage and private hire vehicle and private hire operator's fees as set out in **Appendix A** to this report.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	<p>Discretionary fees and charges relating to licences and registrations are based on cost recovery, and should they not reflect the cost of providing the service, there is a risk of generating a surplus or deficit.</p> <p>All costs associated with running the consultation via public notice was met from within existing budgets.</p>
Human Resource:	<p>There are no human resources implications associated with the consultation. The consultation was undertaken within existing resources within the PPP and the Recruitment, Consultation and Performance Team.</p>

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Implication	Commentary
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>Fees for vehicle and operators' licences</p> <p>s.70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976: "...a district council may charge such fees for the grant of vehicle and operators' licences as may be resolved by them from time to time and as may be sufficient in the aggregate to cover in whole or in part:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the reasonable cost of the carrying out by or on behalf of the district council of inspections of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles for the purpose of determining whether any such licence should be granted or renewed; (b) the reasonable cost of providing hackney carriage stands; and (c) any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the foregoing and with the control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles." <p>The licensing costs recoverable by a district authority in respect of vehicles and operators is limited to vehicle inspection costs for the specific purpose of determining their suitability to be licensed, reasonable cost of providing hackney carriage stands, reasonable administration costs for processing the licence application and finally reasonable costs associated with "...control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles."</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>The fees are potentially subject to legal challenge. It is therefore important that the fees and methodology are subject to ongoing review.</p>
<p>Property:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Policy:</p>	<p>The Joint Public Protection Committee (JPPC) is required every autumn to propose a budget to partner authorities. This includes proposals in relation to discretionary fees and charges. The individual authorities are then required to make their own decisions in relation to the fees.</p> <p>It is not the role of this Committee to set the fees for 2026/27 as this is a function of the Full Council. The Committee is being asked to note the comments made in relation to the operators and vehicle licence fees received during the statutory consultation for information only.</p>

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Implication	Commentary			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:		✓		<p>No evident contribution to inequality</p> <p>The income received from licence applicants covers the cost of providing the statutory licensing function.</p>
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		No impact
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		No impact
Environmental Impact:		✓		No impact
Health Impact:		✓		No impact
ICT Impact:		✓		No impact
Digital Services Impact:		✓		<p>This information will be included on the Public Protection Partnership Website using existing resources.</p>
Council Strategy Priorities:	✓			This work is business as usual within the service.

Implication	Commentary			
Core Business:		✓		This work is business as usual within the service.
Data Impact:		✓		No impact
Consultation and Engagement:	Members of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade as well as members of the public, Councillors and service users were consulted on the statutory fees as is required by the legislation. This was enabled via emails directly to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licence holders and Private Hire Operators, a public notice in the Newbury Weekly News, a notice placed in Market Street Reception window and a consultation notice added to the Public Protection Partnership website and the West Berkshire Council website for the mandatory 28 day consultation period.			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The 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 and West Berkshire) annually. The proposed fees for 2026/27 were discussed at the JPPC meeting held on Monday, [06 October 2025](#) where it was proposed to increase the hourly rate that the fees are based on by 7.2% from £69per hour to £74 per hour. The increase reflects the increase to the cost base which includes salary related costs (including those not budgeted for in the 2025/26 hourly rate e.g. the higher than budgeted for pay settlement) along with support service recharge increases.
- 4.2 These fees were then presented to the Licensing Committee at the [03 November 2025 meeting](#). The Committee agreed that, save for the private hire operator, and hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence fees, the discretionary fees go forward for consideration as part of the Council fee setting process.
- 4.3 The Committee also agreed that the fees for private hire operator, and hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence fees be subjected to a twenty eight day statutory consultation period. Due to the Licensing Committee meeting being postponed in January the fees were presented to Full Council for approval. The fees were agreed by Full Council and will now come into effect on the 01 April 2026. This report serves to update the Committee on the consultation only.
- 4.4 The proposed 2026/27 fees subjected to the statutory consultation are set out below:

Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Vehicle Licence

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Hackney carriage vehicle new / renewal	£333/£296
Private hire vehicle new / renewal	£333/£296
Private hire vehicle with dispensation new/ renewal	£333/£296
Temporary Vehicle Licence (issued up to 3 months Maximum)	£296

Private Hire Operator Licence

Private hire operator licence		
Number of vehicles	New	Renewal
1	£555.00	£407.00
2	£647.50	£499.50
3	£740.00	£592.00
4	£832.50	£684.50
5	£925.00	£777.00
6	£1,017.50	£869.50
7	£1,110.00	£962.00
8	£1,202.50	£1,054.50
9	£1,295.00	£1,147.00
10	£1,387.50	£1,239.50
11	£1,480.00	£1,332.00
12	£1,572.50	£1,424.50
13	£1,665.00	£1,517.00
14	£1,757.50	£1,609.50
15	£1,850.00	£1,702.00
16	£1,942.50	£1,794.50
17	£2,035.00	£1,887.00
18	£2,127.50	£1,979.50

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19	£2,220.00	£2,072.00
20	£2,312.50	£2,164.50
20+	£2,312.50	£2,164.50
Variation to licence	£74	£74

4.5 Who and How we Consulted

- The consultation period ran from 06 November 2025 to 04 December 2025.
- A public notice was placed in the Newbury Weekly News on the 06 November 2025.
- A consultation letter was posted to all Taxi and Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators in the District.
- 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 06 November 2025.
- The consultation was supported by a press release and social media post on the 06 November 2025.

4.6 Two responses to the consultation were received, both from residents. The Council did not receive any objections or comments from the trade on the fees.

4.7 Both responses received related to tariffs and not to fees.

4.8 At both the October 2025 and January 2026 Taxi Trade meetings the trade commented that they did not believe that all of the fees accurately reflected the time taken to process them. An example that was cited was that the trade believed it took longer than four hours to process a Temporary Vehicle Licence. Officers confirmed that time recording was being improved and this was reviewed on an annual basis.

4.9 The trade also commented at these meetings that they would like to see more enforcement officers in post and that they understood that this would increase fees. Officers agreed to look into this option.

4.10 As no objections to the statutory consultation were received the fees were presented to Full Council on the 26 February 2026 where they were adopted with effect from the 01 April 2026.

5 Other options considered

5.1 There are no alternative options, as the consideration of the objections and setting of the fees are legal requirements as outlined above.

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix A – Outcome of the Consultation Document.

Background Papers:

[Section 70\(1\) of the Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976](#)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All

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