

## Outcome of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators and Vehicle Licence Fees Consultation - 2023

### **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 2024/25 were discussed at the Joint Public Protection Committee meeting held on the [02 October 2023](#). 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 Bracknell Forest 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.

Bracknell Forest Council's Licensing and Safety Committee considered the proposed fees at a meeting held on Thursday, [19 October 2023](#)

The Licensing and Safety Committee agreed that save for the, hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator's fees, [all of the PPP 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 Wednesday 21 February 2024.

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

In light of the then inflation rate it was proposed to increase the hourly rate from £64p/h to £68.25p/h for 2024/25 (increase of 6.7% which was in line with the 12 month CPI to the end of August 2023)

The proposed fees that are required to be consulted on under the legislation are set out below:

### Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Vehicle Licence

Hackney carriage vehicle new / renewal	£307/£273
Private hire vehicle new / renewal	£307/£273
Home to School vehicle new / renewal	£171
Private hire vehicle with dispensation new/ renewal	£307/£273
Temporary Vehicle Licence (issued up to 3 months Maximum)	£273

### Private Hire Operator Licence

	Number of vehicles	New	Renewal
New Per vehicle calculation of 3.5 hours (at £64.00 hourly rate) plus an hour per year (years	1	£512	£375
	2	£597	£461
	3	£682	£546
	4	£768	£631



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2-5) for first vehicle, plus 15 minutes per additional vehicle per years (years 1-5) up to a maximum of 20 vehicles  Renewal Per vehicle calculation of 1.5 hours (at £64 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	5	£853	£717
	6	£938	£802
	7	£1024	£887
	8	£1109	£973
	9	£1194	£1058
	10	£1280	£1143
	11	£1365	£1229
	12	£1450	£1314
	13	£1536	£1399
	14	£1621	£1484
	15	£1706	£1570
	16	£1792	£1655
	17	£1877	£1740
	18	£1962	£1826
	19	£2048	£1911
	20	£2133	£1996
	20+	£2133	£1996
	Variation to licence	£68.25	£68.25

## **Who and How we Consulted**

- The consultation ran from 08 November 2023 to 06 December 2023.
- A public notice was placed in the Bracknell News (Wednesday, 08 November 2023) and on the Public Protection Partnership's website on the 08 November 2023.
- A copy of the notice was emailed individually to all licensed hackney carriage proprietors for their comments on the 08 November 2023.
- A copy of the notice was also placed on the Time Square notice board on the 08 November 2023.

## **What you Told Us**

We received one response to the consultation during the consultation period. The response was submitted by Manoj Lacximicant on Behalf of the Bracknell Hackney Taxi Driver Association Signed by 44 Members

The response is set out below.

<b>Comment</b>
<p><b>Response 1:</b></p> <p>It is important to understand the concerns of Hackney drivers regarding to freeze on vehicle licence fees new/renewal and hourly rate for a further year due to the ongoing challenges posed by the lack of trading, lots of strikes by RMT this year, the rising cost-of-living, bills are going up for foods, the cost of maintenance the vehicles, taxi insurance, mortgage all are piling the pressure for some and still not yet recovered from pandemic. We all are feeling the pinch and it could be a crucial issue for the taxi trade and drivers' livelihoods. Advocating for stability in fees and charges is a valid way to support the industry during challenging times.</p> <p>This is why the reason our Bracknell Hackney Taxi Driver association is opposing the increase in proposed consultation statutory on Fees and charges-2024/2025 , hourly rate of £68.25-Initial/inspection/renewal of Vehicle Age and fees increase for New - £307 /renewals - £273 of vehicle licenses , contesting and maintaining at least the same old fees as 2023/2024 - New - £288/Renewed -£256 Licensed Vehicle. - Vehicle Age Inspection at an hourly rate of £64. (2023/2024)</p>

In order for our concerns to be considered in the consultation, I am emailing a scanned letter attached in pdf file with 44 signatures from the Hackney driver to the appropriate committee conducting the consultation for review on Fees and Charges for 2024-2025.

It should be noted that with regards to hackney drivers concerns, we understand the list below does not apply in Statutory consultation fees on the Age of Vehicle inspection of £68.25, proposed increase New-£350/ renewal-£316 driving license (badge) increase also fees need to be capped for 1 year equal to 2023/2024 fees £328/£296 and also £70 fee on DBS enhanced new application needs to be reviewed, reason is still high.

We hope you understand the current situation in the taxi trade. We would like you to give us a fair decision and continue to support the taxi trade.

### ***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 19 October 2023 Licensing and Safety 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 [01 February 2024](#) and that any ensuing changes would then be recommended to full Council for approval. Council will agree the fees and charges at the meeting on [the 21 February 2024](#).

As objections have been received a discussion will take place at the 01 February 2023 Licensing and Safety 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 2024.

The trade will be kept informed throughout the process.



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