

Outcome of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators and Vehicle Licence Fees Consultation - 2025

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 2026/27 were discussed at the Joint Public Protection Committee meeting held on the [06 October 2025](#). 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 all 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, [03 November 2025](#).

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, [26 February 2026](#)

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 £69p/h to £74h for 2026/27 (increase of 7.2%) The proposed 2026/27 statutory fees that we consulted on are set out below:

Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Vehicle Licence

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



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



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
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

Who and How we Consulted

- a) The consultation period ran from 06 November 2025 to 04 December 2025.
- 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 06 November 2025.
- 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 06 November 2025.
- e) The consultation was supported by a press release on 06 November 2025 and social media posts on the 06 November 2025.

What you Told Us

We received two responses to the consultation during the consultation period, both from residents. We thank the residents that took the time to respond and note that these responses both relate to fares and not fees. The Council did not receive any objections or comments from the trade on the fees.

The responses are set out below.

Comment
Response 1: Resident
Good morning,



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



I'm a 77yr old woman, a carer for my husband who is housebound. He can no longer drive, and I am unable to drive. So, we have sold our car.

I've had to take a taxi on occasions where I can't use a bus for transport. The costs are already extortionate using a taxi and now WBC are increasing the fares. Absolutely disgusting. E.g. taxi from C Close [Thatcham Address], Thatcham to Wickes, Hambridge Road. Nearly £9. This was in the late morning.

Response 2: Resident

I understand that our charges need to be higher than average due to the rural nature of the area. However, as a frequent user of the service, almost exclusively within 3miles of home and within Newbury/ Thatcham borders I feel that the increase in charges will adversely affect me and those like me as we continue to subsidise the more rural routes in the area.

Could consideration be made for a base fee that is higher for rural areas to reflect the additional distance drivers have to go for pick up and that difference to reduce or maintain the base fee for those going short distance within built up areas. This will hit my purse very hard and as I am unable to drive, live alone and am physically disabled I feel disadvantaged by any decision to increase fares by such a large percentage.

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 03 November 2025 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 [19 January 2026](#) 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 26 February 2026.



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



As no objections have been received, officers will report back on the outcome of the consultation to the Members of the Licensing Committee at the 19 January 2026 Licensing Committee. The fees will now be presented to Full Council with a recommendation to adopt them and that they come into effect on 01 April 2026. This discussion will take place at the [26 February 2026](#) Council meeting.



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

