



Licensing Committee

Thu 15 May
2025
7.00 pm

Oakenshaw Community
Centre, Castleditch
Lane, B98 7YB



If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact

Gavin Day
Democratic Services Officer

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GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Please note that this is a public meeting and is open to the public to attend.

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers, please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The total maximum time permitted for public speaking is 15 minutes and the time limit for individual speakers is 3 minutes.

Only those members of the public who have registered to speak in advance of the meeting will be permitted to do so.

To register to speak you must contact Democratic Services by phone on 01527 64252 ext 3304, or email gavin.day@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk before 12 noon on Tuesday 13th May 2025.

When registering to speak you must give your name and contact telephone number and indicate which agenda item you wish to speak about, and whether you are in support of or opposed to the officer recommendation.

Notes:

Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public and press are excluded.



Licensing

Thursday, 15th May, 2025

7.00 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	David Munro (Chair)	Sid Khan
	Sachin Mathur (Vice-Chair)	Gary Slim
	Juliet Barker Smith	Jen Snape
	Brandon Clayton	Monica Stringfellow
	Matthew Dormer	Paul Wren
	Sharon Harvey	

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and / or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.

3. Public Speaking

4. HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES - REQUEST FOR VARIATION CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTION RECEIVED (Pages 5 - 16)

5. Work Programme (Pages 17 - 18)

6. Exclusion of the Public and Press

In the opinion of the Chief Executive, the meeting will not be, or is unlikely to be open to the Public at the time the following items of business are considered for the reasons stated. The Committee will be asked to pass the following resolution:

“that under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

- Paragraph 1 – Any Individuals
- Paragraph 2 – Identity of Individuals
- Paragraph 3 – Financial or Business Affairs
- Paragraph 7 – The Prosecution of a Crime.”

7. Minutes (Pages 19 - 30)

8. Officer Update(s) - Enforcement and Appeal Matters

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(In view of the fact that information may be revealed in relation to individuals, the identities and financial or business affairs of those individuals and the prosecution of crimes, any reports will be confidential and circulated to Members and relevant Officers only.)

9. Urgent Business

To consider any Urgent Reports, details of which have been notified to the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

15 May 2025

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES – REQUEST FOR VARIATION
CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTION RECEIVED

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Monica Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Director	Simon Wilkes Director of Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Council has responsibility under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, for setting the maximum fares that can be charged by hackney carriage vehicles licensed to operate within the district.

At its meeting of the 8 April 2025, the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed variation to the existing table of fares. Members are now asked to consider an objection received in respect of the proposed varied table of fares.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Licensing Committee considers the objection received to the proposed table of fares and RESOLVE to bring into force the varied table of fares shown at Appendix 1 with effect from 1 June 2025.

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs of advertising the proposed variations to the table of fares for hackney carriages was met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING COMMITTEE****15 May 2025**

- 3.3 Section 65(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 further states:
- a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.
 - b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- 3.4 If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in section 65 (2), or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
- 3.5 If objections are made and are not withdrawn, the district council must set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The Council has responsibility under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, for setting the maximum fares that can be charged by hackney carriage vehicles licensed to operate within the district.
- 3.7 Hackney Carriage ("Taxi") fares are made up of an initial hiring charge and a "mileage" rate, both of which are expressed in terms of distance and / or time per unit cost. This is because when a hired taxi is stationary or moving slowly in traffic the meter continues charging, but by time, instead of distance.
- 3.8 The table of fares applies only to hackney carriage vehicles. Private hire operators are free to agree their hiring charges in advance with their customers, normally at the time of booking the journey.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING COMMITTEE****15 May 2025**

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- 3.9 On 8 April 2025, the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed variation to the existing table of fares for hackney carriages. The proposed varied table of fares approved for advertisement is shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.10 An objection to the proposed table of fares has been received from a member of the public on the basis that they believe the Council's table of fares should only display metric units (metres and kilometres).
- 3.11 The objection received raises no opposition to the proposed increase to the maximum cost of journeys undertaken in hackney carriages. The objection relates only to the use of imperial units of measurement (yards and miles). A copy of the objection received can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.12 The proposed varied table of fares shows distances expressed in both metric (metres) and imperial units of measurement (yards and miles).
- 3.13 The current format of the table of fares is compliant with current legislation and is clear and understandable for passengers and licence holders. It is consistent with most fare tables published by other local authorities across the country.
- 3.14 Officers, in considering the setting of the table of fares, have referred to the publication entitled "Button on Taxi's: Licensing Law and Practice". The publication is written by the acknowledged expert in Hackney Carriage Licensing, James T H Button who has a very helpful note regarding fares and why they should be in miles, yards, feet and inches. James Button states - "it is permissible for the metric equivalent to be shown as well."
- 3.15 This is based on the exception under reg 5(2) of the Units of Measurement Regs 1995, which excludes metric units from road signs, distance, and speed measurement - miles, yards remain the lawful unit of measurement because a taximeter measures by distance and time and would therefore appear to fall within the exception. The relevant excerpt from the regulations is detailed in the below paragraph.
- 3.16 **The Units of Measurement Regulations 1995**

Exceptions

- 5.— (1) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any supplementary indication; and in this paragraph "supplementary indication" has the same meaning as it has in section 8(5A) of the Weights and Measures Act 1985.(1)

(2) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any of the uses of relevant imperial units which are permitted by Article 1(b) of the Units of Measurement Directive, that is to say—

(a) the use of the mile, yard, foot or inch for road traffic signs, distance and speed measurement;

(b) the use of the pint for dispensing draught beer and cider;

(c) the use of the pint for milk in returnable containers;

(d) the use of the acre for land registration; and

(e) the use of the troy ounce for transactions in precious metals.

(3) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any use of a relevant imperial unit which is permitted by Article 2(b) of the Units of Measurement Directive (use in the field of air and sea transport and rail traffic of units laid down in international conventions or agreements).

(4) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any contract to which regulation 11(1) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1986(2) applies.

- 3.17 Officers also considered the point that the Odometers in most UK vehicles, measure in miles and tenths of a mile. This would also appear to be the most easily understood measurement for passengers many of whom may also be drivers.
- 3.18 Speedometers usually display the miles per hour travelled as the main measurement but also often display a second measurement showing the equivalent in kilometres per hour.
- 3.19 The purpose of the Table of Fares is to ensure that passengers have knowledge of what the expected charges will be when undertaking their journeys.
- 3.20 Members are asked to consider the objection received to the proposed table of fares and resolve to bring the revised table of fares at **Appendix 1** into force on 1 June 2025.

LICENSING COMMITTEE15 May 2025

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Varied Table of Fares

Appendix 2 – Objection received

AUTHOR OF REPORTName: Michelle James – Principal Licensing Officer (Interim)
Worcestershire Regulatory ServicesE Mail: michelle.james@worcsregservices.gov.uk

Tel: (01905) 822799

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL (PROPOSED)**TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES****WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JUNE 2025**

	Tariff One	Tariff Two	Tariff Three
For the first 880 yards (804.7 metres approx.) or part thereof	£4.40	£5.77	£7.92
For each subsequent 176 yards (160.9 metres approx.)	£0.15	£0.15	£0.30
Equivalent to: 1 st one mile distance 1760 yards (1609 metres approx.)	£5.15	£6.52	£9.42
For each subsequent one mile distance	£1.50 per mile (1609.3 metres approx.)	£1.50 per mile (1609.3 metres approx.)	£3.00 per mile (1609.3 metres approx.)
Waiting time – for each 30 seconds	£0.10	£0.10	£0.20
Extra Charges			
For each dog (except guide dogs)	£1.50		
For each passenger in excess of 6	£0.50		

Explanation of Tariffs Applicable	
Tariff One	6am – Midnight
Tariff Two	Midnight – 6am <u>and</u> on designated public holidays
Tariff Three	Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day
<p><u>Note</u> if the vehicle or seating is so soiled by any passenger or animal as to require cleaning, the proprietor may make a charge. This must be made clear to the passenger at the end of the journey there will be a maximum charge of £75.00.</p>	

16 April 2025



Licensing and Support Services Manager
 Redditch Borough Council
 C/o Worcestershire Regulatory Services
 Wyre Forest House
 Finepoint Way,
 Kidderminster,
 DY11 7WF

Dear Sir,

Re: **Variation of the table of fares for Hackney Carriages -
 Public Notice on page 30 in the Redditch Advertiser 16 April 2025.**

I'm writing to object to the table of fares shown.

I am not objecting to any change (increase or decrease) to the fares charged.

Like in previous years I'm strongly objecting to the use of yards and miles.

I've explained previously the legislation about the use of imperial units (miles, and yards)

only applies to Highway traffic signage – on roads,

And if you didn't know the DfT Highways Manual uses only metric units.

The taxi tariffs/fares should ONLY be in metric units, (metres and kilometres).

A colleague described the advertised table as a 'dog's breakfast type of document'.

I enclose again, a document showing the taxi fares for Oxford City which is much easier to understand and only uses metric units. However, it's obvious that the values are just conversions, for example: 53.6 m = 1/3 mile; 1608 m = 1 mile; 6432 m = 4 miles.

I also enclose a copy of the taxi tariff for WORCESTER CITY which unfortunately shows imperial equivalents.

*****Surely RBC / WRS officers are capable of producing a simple table showing the equivalent METRIC ONLY fares, for example:**

Cost (£) per km,

Cost (£) per 250 m,

plus, other suitable values like for 5 km.

And please make the values sensible integers - no conversions producing decimal places!

Kindly ensure all members of the RBC Taxi Committee are given copies of this correspondence.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Footnote: a very interesting bit of history:-

In 1904, 333 MPs were in favour of fully adopting the metric system for all official purposes.

<https://metricviews.uk/2024/02/23/house-of-lords-votes-in-favour-of-full-adoption-of-the-metric-system/>



Oxford City Council
Building a world-class city for everyone

Hackney Carriage taxi fares in Oxford city

We set fares for Hackney Carriage taxis within Oxford. Fares are charged by meter. Outside Oxford you should negotiate a fare or agree a tariff for the meter.

The driver must, unless he has reasonable excuse, accept any hiring within the Oxford city boundary if the destination is also within the Oxford city boundary. The fare for such a journey, shown below, will be calculated by the taxi meter.

The driver does not have to accept journeys that end outside the Oxford city boundary; the fare or rate of fare must be by agreement between the hirer and driver before the journey commences. The fare is likely to be higher than within the City as drivers cannot accept a return hiring. Where no such agreement exists then the scale of charges applicable to journeys within the City shown below will apply.

Maximum fares set by us for licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles operative from 22 February 2024 can be found below:

General tariffs

- £0.20 for each passenger above one
- £0.10 for each item of baggage carried outside the passenger compartment
- £1.00 for each adult bicycle
- £50.00 charge for cleaning the inside of a vehicle when soiled

Tariff 1 - Day rates

Tariff 1 applies 6am to 10pm from Monday to Friday and 6am to 6pm on Saturday

- £2.80 for the first 53.6 metres (or part thereof)

- £0.10 for each subsequent 47.3 metres or part thereof until 1608 metres
- £0.10 for each subsequent 80.4 metres or part thereof until 6432 metres
- £0.10 or each subsequent 48.7 metres or part thereof
- £0.10 for every 18 seconds of waiting time or part thereof £20 per hour
- £1.00 for each trunk carried

Tariff 2 - Night and bank holiday rates

Tariff 2 applies 10pm to 2am from Monday to Friday and Sunday, 6pm to 2am on Saturday, all public holidays (except Tariff 3).

- £3.00 for the first 48 metres (or part thereof)
- £0.10 for each subsequent 46 metres or part thereof until 2208 metres
- £0.10 for each subsequent 80.5 metres or part thereof until 6432 metres
- £0.10 for each subsequent 48.7 metres of part thereof
- £0.10 for every 18 seconds of waiting time or part thereof £20 per hour
- £1.00 for each trunk carried

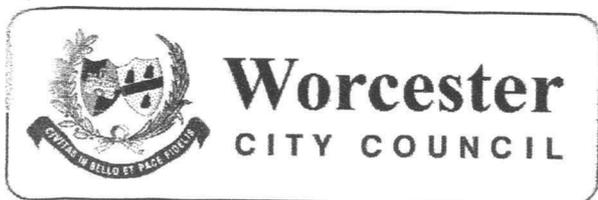
Tariff 3

Tariff 3 applies 2am to 6am daily, from 8pm on 24 December to 6am on 27 December and from 8pm on 31 December to 6am on 2 January

- £3.00 for the first 64.3 metres or part thereof
- £0.15 for each subsequent 64.3 metres or part thereof until 1608 metres
- £0.15 for each subsequent 80.4 metres or part thereof until 6432 metres
- £0.15 for each subsequent 73.1 metres or part thereof
- £0.10 for every 12 seconds of waiting time or part thereof £20 per hour
- £1.50 for each trunk carried

Additional Charges

- £0.30 for each passenger in excess of one
- £0.10 for each article of baggage carried **outside the passenger compartment of the cab**
- £2.00 for each pedal cycle carried
- £0.10 for each wheeled vehicle carried (except mobility impaired persons vehicle)



HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF MAY 2022

TARIFF ONE	
7am to midnight, Monday to Saturday	
For the first 1208m or part thereof	£4.30
Each subsequent 67m or uncompleted part thereof after 1208m up to 1610m (1 mile)	10p
FOR THE FIRST MILE, EQUIVALENT TO:	£5.00
Then 10p for each subsequent 80.5m or part thereof.	10p
FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT MILE EQUIVALENT TO:	£2.00
Waiting time - for each period of 30 seconds or uncompleted part thereof:	10p

TARIFF TWO	
Midnight to 7am, Monday to Saturday All day Sunday & Bank Holidays 6pm – Midnight Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve All day Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day	
For the first 1208m or part thereof	£5.50
Each subsequent 57.4m or uncompleted part thereof after 1208m up to 1610m (1 mile)	10p
FOR THE FIRST MILE, EQUIVALENT TO:	£6.30
Then 10p for each subsequent 57.5m or part thereof.	10p
FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT MILE, EQUIVALENT TO:	£2.80
Waiting time - for each period of 30 seconds or uncompleted part thereof	10p

EXTRA CHARGES		
PASSENGERS	For each passenger in excess of three	50p each
SOILAGE	If this vehicle or seating is soiled by any passenger or animal which then requires cleaning, the proprietor may make a charge. It must be made clear to the passenger at the end of the journey that there will be a charge of:	£75.00

The meter must be used for all journeys which start and finish within the City of Worcester and no more than the fare displayed on the meter at the end of the journey may be charged.

In case of compliment or complaint please contact:

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LICENSING COMMITTEE**15th May` 2025****LICENSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26****15th May 2025**

- Consideration of objections - the Hackney Carriage table of fares

14th July 2025

- Compliance Testing for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles – Viability of approving alternative testing stations

6th October 2025**8th December 2025**

- CCTV in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

8th March 2026

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Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 8th April, 2025

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor David Munro (Chair), Councillor Sachin Mathur (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Barker Smith, Juma Begum, Matthew Dormer, Gary Slim, Jen Snape, Monica Stringfellow and Paul Wren

Officers:

Vanessa Brown, Michelle James and Niall McMenamin

Democratic Services Officers:

Gavin Day

39. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Sharon Harvey with Councillor Juma Begum in attendance as substitute.

Apologies were also received from Councillors Brandon Clayton and Sid Khan.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers.

42. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

The Interim Principal Licensing Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), presented the report to Members. The purpose of the report was to consider the consultation responses regarding mandatory safeguarding refresher training.

In response to the publication of the Department of Transport's "Taxi & Private Hire Standards" the council published a new "Taxi

Chair

Policy” in September 2022. The new Taxi Policy introduced the requirement for all new drivers to undertake safeguarding training. However, there was no requirement for continued refreshment to highlight changes in current safeguarding concerns and landscape, it was further detailed that those who had their licences granted prior to the new “taxi Policy” coming into effect in September 2022 may not have received any formal safeguarding training.

In October 2024, the Licensing Committee agreed for relevant consultees to be contacted on mandatory safeguarding refresher training during licence renewal for all drivers. The consultation lasted for 12 weeks and was predominantly an online exercise with responses being collated via an online portal. The list of consultees was detailed on pages 5 and 6 of the Supplementary Agenda pack.

33 responses were received with the most (28) being from licence holders, the majority of respondents (72.73%) were in objection to having mandatory safeguarding refresher training. The main reasons given by those who expanded on their reasons were around the cost and availability of the training.

In addressing the concerns, officers detailed that the course would be supplied at a cost of £20 which would be cost neutral to WRS and would take place frequently. It was explored if a subsidy should be provided, however, it was decided that the cost was modest and was seen as good value. Officers drew Member’s attention to the table at paragraph 4.5 shown on page 8 of the Supplementary Agenda pack, the table detailed the costs charged by other authorities and that £20 was equal to or lower than the other local authorities contacted, thus supporting their view that it was good value.

The following was clarified after questions from Members:

- That the cost of the course was decided after the consultation had started, therefore, some of the comments were given without that information being known.
- That the training was currently intended to all be Face-to-Face, however, the merits of putting on a remote session for refresher training were being explored.
- Translations were not considered as it was expected that a certain level of conversational English should be demonstrated to hold a licence with Redditch Borough Council and therefore translations were not deemed necessary.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates were discussed and it was clarified that drivers were required to have a DBS certificate and subscribe to the update service as a condition for

their licence. Additionally, it was detailed that all passenger assistance individuals were also required to have a valid DBS certificate.

Members stated that safeguarding training was very important and many expressed the opinion that considering the importance of the trade in identifying vulnerable individuals, training every 3 years could be deemed too infrequent to keep knowledge up to date with developments in safeguarding concerns.

It was further stated that in their opinion some of the respondents did not understand safeguarding and their responsibilities and that appropriate training could assist protecting both drivers and passengers. This was noted as being evident from the responses given in objection to the consultation.

Members questioned if the consultation was clear enough in describing its purpose, however, Officers assured members that the opening description was adequate to detail its purpose, and some misunderstanding could be detailed as Drivers either not reading the text at the start or not understanding safeguarding which could highlight the need for the training.

Members were broadly in support of safeguarding refresher training but expressed disappointment that the trade did not generally appear to support it. On being put to a vote it was:

RESOLVED that

the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licensing Policy be amended, as detailed in appendix 2 on page 21 of the Supplementary Agenda pack.

43. ANNUAL REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES

The Interim Principal Licensing Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), presented the report to Members. The purpose of the report was to consider an increase in the hackney Carriage table of fares.

Officers detailed that in considering the annual review of the hackney carriage tables of fares, the Redditch Taxi Association (RTA) were contacted in March 2025 to ask whether the RTA would be seeking to vary the table of fares. The response was that an increase of 10% was requested on the "Hiring Charge" only, with no increase of the "Mileage" portion.

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Making the requested amendment would increase the cost of a two mile journey (the standard unit under which comparisons are made) from £6.25 to £6.65 which was a 6.4% increase.

Officers drew Members attention to page 26 of the Supplementary Agenda pack which detailed the change (reduction) in fuel costs since January 2022 when the fare was last altered. However, Officers further detailed that fuel was only one factor to consider and that during that same period, inflation had risen by 11.26%. Therefore, Officers deemed the request reasonable and supported the increase.

Legislation dictated that any increase in fares must be preceded by publishing a public notice which would be in a local newspaper, objections would be invited for 14 days from the date of this publication. Should none be received, the new fares would come into force on 1st June 2025. Officers requested that should objections be received; they would be considered under delegated authority after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licencing Committee.

Members saw no issues with the principle of increasing the base fare if that is what the trade requested, however, it was noted that they needed to take care as not to price themselves out of the market.

Members expressed some concern with granting delegated authority to the licencing team to consider any objections, they stated that objections should go before Members of the Licencing Committee to be considered. Therefore, Councillor David Munro proposed an alternative recommendation, requiring any objections to be considered by the licencing Committee, this was seconded by Councillor Paul Wren.

On being put to a vote it was

RESOLVED that

- **Officers were directed to amend the Hackney Carriage Table of fares as detailed at Appendix 5 on page 33 of the Supplementary Agenda pack following the statutory process for consultation.**
- **That any objections from the consultation process be determined by the Licencing Committee.**

44. WORK PROGRAMME

Officers detailed that following the request from the previous Licencing Committee on 18th March 2025, "**CCTV in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles**" has been placed on the work

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Tuesday, 8th April, 2025

programme to be considered at the Licencing Committee on 8th December 2025.

Officers detailed to Member that in support of the work programme item “**Compliance Testing for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles –Viability of approving alternative testing stations**”, visits had been organised at the Crossgates Depot so Members could view the process and speak to the Taxi engineers who undertake the safety inspections. The two proposed dates were 16th June 2025 and 23rd June 2025. Calendar invites would be sent out to all Licencing Members via Democratic Services.

The Chair further detailed that he had a visit to the Depot to examine the process and had found it informative, therefore, he encouraged all Members who are able to attend to do so.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.09 pm

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Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 18th March, 2025

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor David Munro (Chair) and Councillors Juliet Barker Smith, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, Sharon Harvey, Sid Khan, Gary Slim, Jen Snape, Ian Woodall and Paul Wren

Officers:

Michelle James and Vanessa Brown

Democratic Services Officers:

Gavin Day

29. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Monica Stringfellow with Councillor Ian Woodall in attendance as substitute.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Sachin Mathur.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was no public speaking.

32. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS - THIS ITEM HAS BEEN DEFERRED TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE LICENCING COMMITTEE.

The Chair announced that Agenda item 4 (Minute No32) had been deferred to a future meeting of the licencing Committee due to some inaccuracies in the report and that a new report will be circulated to Members in the agenda to be considered at that meeting.

Chair

33. REPORT ON PRIMATE LICENCING

The Interim Principal Licensing Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), presented the report to Members. The purpose of the report was for Members to note the report and recommend to Council that the applicable Fees and charges are set.

Officers detailed that in March 2024, The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 was made, due to go into effect from 6th April 2025 and being enforceable from 6th April 2026.

As the regulation was determined by central government, a consultation was not required by Local Authorities and therefore members were asked to note the report and Recommend to Council that the applicable licence fees were set.

Officers detailed that from information provided by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), approximately 5000 primates were being kept privately within Britain, the most common of which being Marmosets, Tamarins and Squirrel Monkeys.

During 2019 following manifesto commitments, a call for evidence was undertaken which found that 98.7% of respondents expressed support for the ban of keeping, selling, breeding or otherwise transferring ownership of Primates unless appropriately licenced. It was further detailed that there was strong support for any licence holder being required to maintain their care to "Zoo Level Standards".

In 2023 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) were consulted on introducing a licencing regime and on 5th March 2024, Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 were made under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Officers detailed that the regime would come into effect on 6th April 2025 and it would be illegal to own a primate without an appropriate licence from 6th April 2026.

The legislation did not detail the level of qualification which inspectors had to attain, nor clarify if further training was required. WRS would be monitoring this detail and would act accordingly when new information was available.

A web page had been implemented by WRS to inform the public of the new legislation, Officers commented that it would be difficult to identify private owners of primates but that they were relying on information provided by Members of the public, however, they would

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also contact veterinary practices which may be aware of owners who they have assisted previously.

After questions from Members, the following was clarified:

- No guidance had been given as to what would happen to Primates whose owners did not intend to pursue attaining a licence.
- That a licence would have a maximum duration of 3 years before expiry when it needed to be renewed.
- Fees were a best estimate, based on current fee amounts. Should it cost more than expected to undertake the work, an amendment would be put forward by WRS to the relevant body to adjust the fees.
- That inspections would be undertaken at random, it was detailed that an inspection would be undertaken at the start/renewal of the licence and it was intended for there to be one unannounced inspection during its 2 or 3 year duration.

Members were generally in support of the regulation of keeping Primates and that it would promote safe keeping and handling. It was noted that more random inspections to maintain standards would be preferred, however, Members appreciated that the guidance was determined within the legislation.

On being put to a vote it was:

RESOLVED that

- The contents of the report be noted.**
- The fees applicable to Primate Keeper Licence applications, as detailed under section 3.28 on page 28 of the Supplementary Agenda pack be recommend to Council.**

34. UPDATE ON THE VIABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE TESTING STATIONS

Officers detailed that the agenda item had been added onto the work programme for 14th July 2025. Officers' apologised for the delay in submitting a report but due to key Officer changes within WRS some of the information had been delayed.

35. WORK PROGRAMME

Following Questions from Members, Officers detailed that the item marked as having no set date "**CCTV in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles**" would be put on the work programme

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following Officer discussions and that a date will be set before the meeting in July.

Officers also detailed that there would be an additional meeting to consider the deferred item “**responses to consultation on mandatory safeguarding refresher training for taxi and private hire drivers.**”. Additionally, following consultation with the Redditch Taxi Association (RTA), support has been expressed by the association for an increase in Hackney Carriage fares, therefore, Officers would also bring “**Annual review of Hackney Carriage table of fares**” to that meeting.

36. MINUTES

The Public and Private minutes of the Licensing Committee of 18th November 2024 were presented to Members.

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on the 18th November 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

37. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that

Under S100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public were excluded on the grounds of the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the said act, as amended.

38. OFFICER UPDATE(S) - ENFORCEMENT AND APPEAL MATTERS

Restricted Minutes.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.55 pm

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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