

Licencing Committee

2nd April 2026

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees and Charges – Consideration of objections received

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor M. Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Report Author	Job Title: Principal Officer: Licensing Contact email: Hazel.Powell@worcsregservices.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01562 738 054
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members consider the objections received to the 2026/2027 proposed licence fee increases in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licences and operator licences and RECOMMEND referring the matter, including any recommendations, to full COUNCIL for determination.

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that each year Redditch Borough Council publish fees and charges for the licensing service as part of the Council's budget. These fees and charges include the fees charged by the Council to ensure that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire service is run on a cost-neutral basis.
- 2.2 The Council is required by section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, to advertise any proposed variation to its fees for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle and operator licences by publishing a notice in a local newspaper. This notice must provide a period of not less than 28 days for people to raise objections to the proposed variations to the fees.
- 2.3 If an objection is made against the proposed variation and not withdrawn then the Licensing Committee must consider the objection raised before recommending onto full Council. The mechanism to

bring the matter before full Council is by way of referral and recommendation through the Licensing Committee.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 It is the Council's role to review and set its licensing fees and charges on an annual basis. The Licensing and Support Services Manager at Worcestershire Regulatory Services works closely with the Head of Finance and the Council's Section 151 Officer to establish accurate details aimed at achieving full cost recovery of the licensing service, in relation to the relevant cost centres.

3.2 The table below sets out the Council's proposed licence fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle and operator licences for the 2026/27 financial year. The proposed fees are a 3% increase (rounded up or down) on the 2025/26 licence fees.

Licence type	Current fee	Proposed fee
Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence (new and renewal)	£308.50	£318.00
Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence (temporary licence)	£231.40	£238.00
Private Hire Operator's Licence (5-year licence) (up to 3 vehicles)	£708.90	£730.00
Private Hire Operator's Licence (per additional vehicle)	£18.90	£19.00

3.3 In accordance with section 70(1) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, on 14th January 2026, a notice appeared in the Redditch Advertiser announcing the above proposed fee increases and inviting objections within 28 days of the date of newspaper's publication. A copy of the notice was also placed at the Council's offices. The last date for objections was 10th February 2026.

3.4 On 23rd January 2026 the licensing service received an objection from Asim Nazir, Imran Altaf, and Mohammed Ilyas as representatives of the Redditch Taxi Association. The objection is attached as **APPENDIX 1**.

3.5 The objection from the Taxi Association raises concerns that the proposed increased fees do not reflect the impact of cross bordering, increased cost of living, illegal parking on ranks, or reflect the current level of administrative service.

- 3.6 On 9th February 2026 the licensing service received an objection from Amjad Ali Khan of A2B Taxis and Contracts (Redditch) Ltd, who holds a Private Hire operators licence and Private Hire vehicle licences with Redditch Borough Council. The objection is given as **APPENDIX 2**.
- 3.7 The objection from A2B Taxis and Contracts (Redditch) Ltd raises concerns that the proposed fees are disproportionate in terms of the financial pressures resulting from current policy requirements and in respect of the level of administrative service provided. The objection also details concerns that the proposed fees may drive the taxi trade to be licensed by other authorities whose licence fees are lower; the objection provides a cost comparison with Wolverhampton City Council's licensing fees.
- 3.8 Officers take into consideration the objections made but ask Members to be mindful that any increase budgeted is cost neutral and that the percentage increase is in line with today's inflation figures. The percentage increase takes into account the cost of providing the service including salary costs, Committee Costs and Legal costs. All of which must be taken into consideration.
- 3.9 Members are asked to consider the information before them and propose any recommendations the Committee may wish to make in referring this matter to full Council for final determination.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposed increase in fees and charges would cover the increase in costs to the Council. This includes salary costs, NI, all internal costs to the Council including the cost of sun committees, Parents Committees and Legal Services. Licensing fees and charges are non-profit making, and the relevant cost centres will reflect the operation of the service as cost-neutral. Any reduction in the proposed fees may lead to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing service running at a financial loss.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council may only charge a fee which enables the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing function to operate on a cost-neutral basis. Any excess income must be carried forward to the next financial year and the review of the fees at that point would need to reflect the carry-over.

- 5.2 The 1976 Act requires proposed variation to the fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle and operator licences to undergo a 28 day public consultation by way of notice within a local newspaper and at the Council's offices.
- 5.3 Full Council holds the responsibility for final determination of fees. Any objections made to the proposed fees must first be considered by the Licensing Committee and referred to full Council with any recommendations that the Licensing Committee may have.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 6.1 The licensing fees and charges review found it necessary to increase fees and charges for 26/27 due to inflationary pressures, however the Council also recognises the economic pressure on licence holders and business, so have attempted to keep the increases to a minimum.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 None identified.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 The Council must have regard to its public sector equality duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In summary, Section 149 requires that a public authority, in the exercise of its functions, must have due regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act.
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.4 Section 149(7) of the Equality Act 2010 defines the relevant protected characteristics as: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Licensing Committee

2nd April 2026

- 6.5 The Council believes that the proposal to increase the licensing fees by the percentages outlined in section 3.2 above does not adversely impact or unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristic.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 To minimise the risk of challenge to the setting of fees and charges, they are designed to meet but not exceed the costs the Council reasonably believes will be incurred in issuing licences and administering the service.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Objection from Redditch Taxi Association

Appendix 2 – Objection from A2B Taxi and Contracts (Redditch) Ltd

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Please record the name of the relevant Portfolio Holder who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Lead Director / Head of Service	Please record the name of the relevant lead Director / Head of Service who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Financial Services	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Financial	Please give the date they

Licencing Committee

2nd April 2026

	Services who has signed off the report here.	signed off the report here.
Legal Services	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Legal Services who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Policy team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Climate Change team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.