

Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Wednesday 16th February, 2022 at 6.00pm

In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Agenda - Public Session

(Meeting open to the public and press)

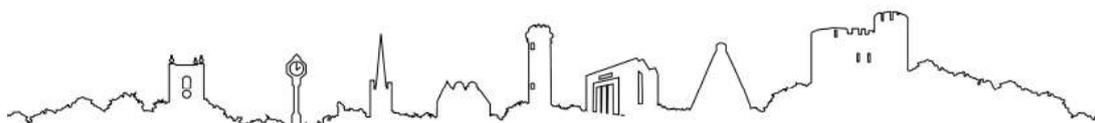
1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. [To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January, 2022 as a correct record.](#)
5. [Revision of Licence Fees \(Pages 1 – 13\)](#)
6. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).

Under the provisions of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the Monitoring Officer has decided that there will be no advance disclosure of the following reports because the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure

7. Resolution to exclude the public and press.

Chair to move:

“That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, for the reasons stated on the agenda.”



8. [Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr IA \(Pages 14 - 16\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)
9. [Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MA \(Pages 17 - 19\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)



Chief Executive

Dated: 8th February, 2022

Distribution:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)

Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Aston, I Bevan, B Challenor, R Body, P Drake, D Harley and E Lawrence

Please note the following concerning meetings at Dudley Council House:

Covid-19 Secure Working

Hands

- Hand Sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations. Everyone is asked to sanitise their hands when arriving and leaving the building. Hand washing facilities are also available on site.

Face

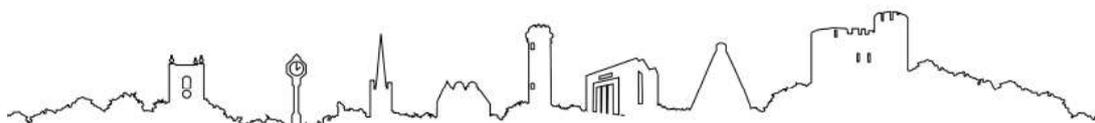
- All attendees are strongly advised to wear face coverings in situations where 2m distancing cannot be maintained. There is a supply of masks available for your use. These need to be worn correctly, covering nose and mouth. To assist this, a provision of surgical grade type 2R masks are available. The masks can be removed when you are speaking at the meeting.
- All persons entering or working in the building are strongly encouraged to wear face masks in communal areas and when moving around the building.

Space

- Please be respectful of everyone's personal space and preferences when you attend meetings.

Testing

- All people attending are encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests twice a week (a supply of kits is available). Anyone testing positive should not attend and should seek further advice including self-isolation and taking a PCR test.



- Anyone unwell should not attend. Or if you have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 10 days; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.

Ventilation

- Windows will be opened in advance of meetings and will be maintained in an open position during meetings to maximise air flow and air changes within the room.
- Heating on site will be used to ensure minimum welfare requirements are met. The windows are open for ventilation, and this may make the environment cooler, so please dress accordingly.
- Carbon Dioxide Monitors will be situated in the meeting rooms. Data captured is used to monitor and assure effectiveness of ventilation.

Vaccination

- All persons attending meetings are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated to limit ill-health effects should a transmission of coronavirus occur.

Toilets

- Toilet facilities are available on site and are subject to the Covid-19 secure measures that are in place. All the toilets have hand washing facilities.

No smoking

- There is no smoking on the Council House premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on the premises. You cannot use e-cigarettes and/or similar vaping devices.

In Case of Emergency

- In the event of the alarms sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

Submitting Apologies for Absence

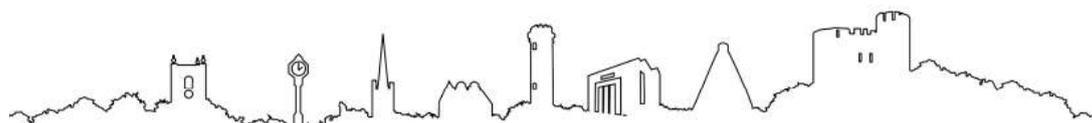
- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below). Members wishing to appoint a substitute should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. Any substitute Members must be eligible to serve on the meeting in question (for example, he/she must have received the training required by the Council).

Private and Confidential Information

- Any agendas containing reports with 'exempt' information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be handed to Democratic Services for secure disposal. If you choose to retain the documents you should ensure that the information is securely stored and destroyed within six months.

General

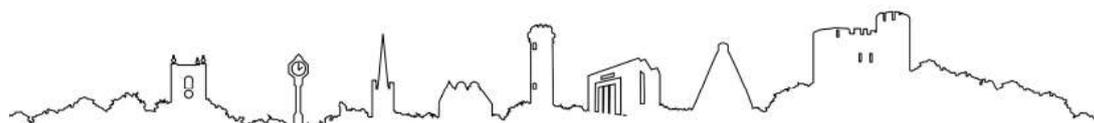
- Public Wi-Fi is available in the Council House.



- The use of mobile devices or electronic facilities is permitted for the purposes of recording/reporting during the public session of the meeting. The use of any such devices must not disrupt the meeting – Please turn off any ringtones or set your devices to silent.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk

If you need advice or assistance

- If you (or anyone you know) requires assistance to access the venue, or if you have any other queries, please contact Democratic Services - Telephone 01384 815238 or E-mail Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Thursday 13th January, 2022 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, I Bevan, R Body, B Challenor, D Harley and E Lawrence

Officers:

S Smith – Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement), N Slym – Assistant Team Manager (Directorate of Public Realm), S Wright – Solicitor and H Mills - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

48. **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor P Drake.

49. **Declarations of interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter considered at the meeting.

50. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

51. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual(s) as defined under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

52. **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AM**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr AM.

Mr AM was not in attendance at the meeting.

The Committee noted the letter submitted by Mr AM's Solicitor, and were mindful that the allegations continued to be investigated by West Midlands Police and that no charges or conviction had been brought against Mr AM at this stage. Therefore, following advice from the Solicitor and to ensure the Committee had all the relevant information available to them to conduct a fair hearing, the Committee determined that the application be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee following further investigation by West Midlands Police.

Resolved

That consideration of the application for the review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr AM, be deferred to a future meeting following further investigation by West Midlands Police.

53. **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MA**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr MA.

The Committee noted that Mr MA was unable to attend the meeting due to Covid-19 isolation restrictions and therefore agreed that the application be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee to enable Mr MA to attend.

Resolved

That consideration of the application for the review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr MA, be deferred to a future meeting to provide Mr MA the opportunity to attend.

54. **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr NA**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr NA.



Mr NA was in attendance at the meeting.

The Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) presented the report in detail and in doing so stated that prior to the Committee, Mr NA had advised that he had reported the offence to the Licensing Team, though had failed to produce the requested evidence.

In response, Mr NA confirmed that he had reported the offence endorsed on his Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) mandate to the Licensing Team within the necessary timeframe, in pursuant with condition 2 of his hackney carriage driver's licence and condition 12 of his private hire driver's licence and the Committee were provided with evidence to that effect.

Resolved

That following consideration of the information contained in the report and presented at the meeting, the Committee determined that no further action be taken.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.

CHAIR



Taxis Committee – 16th February 2022

Report of the Acting Director of Public Realm

Revision of Licence Fees

Purpose

1. To consider the revision of fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences administered by the Committee.

Recommendation

2. That the committee consider the information contained within this report and agree to officer's recommendation of no increase in fees to ensure the council maintains a neutral cost position in relation to the administration of private hire and hackney licensing.

Background

3. The fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences administered by Dudley MBC are set annually by the Taxi Committee. The fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences were last reviewed by the committee in February 2021.
4. The Council is only permitted to set licensing fees for hackney carriage and private hire up to the amount that can be ascertained as being the cost of administering the licensing function. This includes enforcement, administration and ancillary costs relating to members meeting to determine certain licensing applications.
5. Fees received in respect of private hire and hackney carriage licences are not refunded if the application is withdrawn or refused.
6. In considering the revision of licence fees, the Committee may wish to compare the fees charged by the Council with those of neighbouring Councils. A table showing these comparisons is attached as Appendix 1

7. The budget for 2022/2023 has been set based on a 0% uplift to charges, inflationary increases for salaries have been built in and operational efficiencies have been targeted to partly mitigate the impact of this. Over the last three-year cycle we are forecasting a deficit of £ 62k (Excluding 21/22 per Table A), during this period income levels have been fairly consistent but have been adversely affected by the impact of Covid 19 lockdowns during the first quarter of 21/22. The draft budget for 22/23 reflects the costs and income budgets set in 18/19 and therefore efficiencies have been generated to offset the rise in inflation over this four-year period. It is proposed that fees remain unchanged whilst an ongoing review of the impact upon the trade caused by Covid 19. The impact of differing % increases on individual fees is outlined for illustrative purposes in table B below.

Table A

	2018/19 Outturn £000's	2019/20 Outturn £000's	2020/21 Outturn £000's	2021/22 Forecast £000's	2022/23 Draft Budget £000's
Taxi Expenditure	697	697	756	686	692
Taxi Income	-691	-714	-504	-613	-692
Net Position	6	-17	252	73	0
Deficit over 4 years	314				
Deficit excluding 20/21	62				

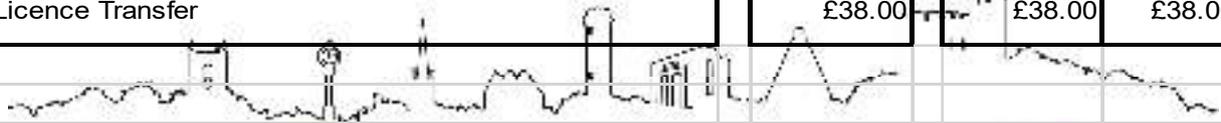
In 21/22 - £252 deficit = £63k per qtr, 22/23 forecast deficit reflects a continuation into the first qtr of the year due to Covid 19.

Table B

	Existing 21/2022 Fees	Revised Proposed 22/23 Fees	Revised Proposed 22/23 Fees	Revised Proposed 22/23 Fees
		0% Uplift £	1% Uplift £	2% Uplift £
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver New Application				
One Year Grant	£252.00	£252.00	£255.00	£257.00
Three Year Grant	£475.00	£475.00	£480.00	£485.00
One Year Grant - Joint Application	£318.00	£318.00	£321.00	£324.00
Three Year Grant - Joint Application	£673.00	£673.00	£680.00	£686.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Renewal				
One Year Renewal	£126.00	£126.00	£127.00	£129.00
Three Year Renewal	£315.00	£315.00	£318.00	£321.00
One Year Renewal - Joint Renewal	£174.00	£174.00	£176.00	£177.00
Three Year Renewal - Joint Renewal	£480.00	£480.00	£485.00	£490.00
Operators				
Grant and Renewal	£445.00	£445.00	£449.00	£454.00
3 Year	£1,267.00	£1,267.00	£1,280.00	£1,292.00
5 Year	£2,001.00	£2,001.00	£2,021.00	£2,041.00
Driver Badges, Signs & Other				
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Badge	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00



	Existing 21/2022 Fees	Revised Proposed 22/23 Fees	Revised Proposed 22/23 Fees	Revised Proposed 22/23 Fees
		0% Uplift £	1% Uplift £	2% Uplift £
Private Hire / Hackney Carriage Driver Badge - Joint	£26.00	£26.00	£26.00	£27.00
DVLA Mandate	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
Disability Course	£29.00	£29.00	£29.00	£30.00
Disability Course Non Attendance Fee	£9.00	£9.00	£9.00	£9.00
General Admin Fee for changes or Adhoc requests	£39.00	£39.00	£39.00	£40.00
Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Enhanced Disclosure Fee	£62.00	£62.00	£63.00	£63.00
Repeat knowledge test for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Fee	£82.00	£82.00	£83.00	£84.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle New Application				
Hackney Carriage Vehicle or Private Hire Vehicle - New App	£250.00	£250.00	£253.00	£255.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle Renewal				
Hackney Carriage Vehicle or Private Hire Vehicle - Renewal	£240.00	£240.00	£242.00	£245.00
4/6 Months Test	£159.00	£159.00	£161.00	£162.00
Retests				
Vehicle Re-Test	£51.00	£51.00	£52.00	£52.00
Vehicle Plates, Brackets & Other				
Plate	£42.00	£42.00	£42.00	£43.00
Bracket	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
Replacement Plate	£16.00	£16.00	£16.00	£16.00
Door Signs – Magnetic x 2	£27.00	£27.00	£27.00	£28.00
Door Signs – Vinyl x 2	£17.00	£17.00	£17.00	£17.00
Special Event Vehicles	£342.00	£342.00	£345.00	£349.00
Retest	£81.00	£81.00	£82.00	£83.00
Plate	£45.00	£45.00	£45.00	£46.00
Seating Check	£143.00	£143.00	£144.00	£146.00
Production of Insurance cover note	£38.00	£38.00	£38.00	£39.00
Cancelled Vehicle Test	£101.00	£101.00	£102.00	£103.00
Internal Plate	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00
Hackney Carriage Door Sticker	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
Driver Assessment	£83.00	£83.00	£84.00	£85.00
Licence Transfer	£38.00	£38.00	£38.00	£39.00



Finance

8. The financial implications in respect of the fees for private hire and hackney carriage licensing (set out in Table B) are outlined below. For information, the budget strategy 2021/2022 assumes an increase of 0%.

Table C

	Licensing Administration and other licensing	Hackney Carriage/Private Hire			
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fee increase option:		0%	1%	2%	3%
Cost of licensing function:					
Salaries	603,000				
Other *	126,700	132,300			
Internal recharge**	(559,600)	559,600			
Gross costs	170,100	691,900			
Licensing Income:	(262,200)				
Taxis		(691,900)	(698,800)	(705,700)	(712,700)
Net cost/(surplus)	(92,100)	0	(6,900)	(13,800)	(20,800)

* other costs include direct costs of the testing function, premises costs and supplies & services which represents 19% of total costs. Other costs also include support services within the Council. For 2022/2023 these indirect costs represent 7% of the total cost of the licensing service. This proportion is reviewed annually and is based on relevant cost drivers.

** the licensing administrative team supports all licensing functions. The above recharge represents an internal adjustment to demonstrate our estimated administrative cost for supporting (specifically) the taxi licensing role (estimated to be 77% and to show more clearly the full cost of the taxi licensing service.

9. The cost of licence administration stated in this report includes the enforcement and administrative costs of processing all licences including gaming and liquor and also includes any costs relating to members.

Law

10. Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 regulates the grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences.

11. In pursuance of Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:

(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, 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-

- (a) the reasonable cost of 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.

(2) The fees chargeable under this section shall not exceed-

- (a) for the grant of a vehicle licence in respect of a hackney carriage, twenty-five pounds;
- (b) for the grant of a vehicle licence in respect of a private hire vehicle, twenty-five pounds; and
- (c) for the grant of an operator's licence, twenty-five pounds per annum;

or in any such case, such other sums as a district council may, subject to the following provisions of this section, from time to time determine.



- (3) (a) If a district council determine that the maximum fees specified in subsection (2) of this section should be varied they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the variation proposed, drawing attention to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection and specifying the period, which shall not be less than twenty-eight days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the variation can be made.
- (b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of twenty-eight 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.
- (4) If no objection to a variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (3) of this section, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the 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.
- (5) If objection is duly made as aforesaid and is not withdrawn, the district council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the variation shall come into force with or without modification as decided by the district council after consideration of the objections.
- (6) A district council may remit the whole or part of any fee chargeable in pursuance of this section for the grant of a licence under section 48 or 55 of this Act in any case in which they think it appropriate to do so.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Act of 1847, a district council may demand and recover for the grant to any person of a licence to drive a hackney carriage, or a private hire vehicle, as the case may be, such a fee as they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration and may remit the whole part of the fee in respect of a private hire vehicle in any case in which they think it appropriate to do so.

Risk Management

13. There are no risk management implications.

Equality Impact



14. The proposals take into account the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.
15. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

16. There are no Human Resources/Organisation Development implications.

Commercial/Procurement

15. There are no commercial/procurement implications.

Council Priorities

16. This application falls within the Council's responsibility for Licensing as a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority to support stronger and safer communities.



Deputy Chief Executive- Balvinder Heran

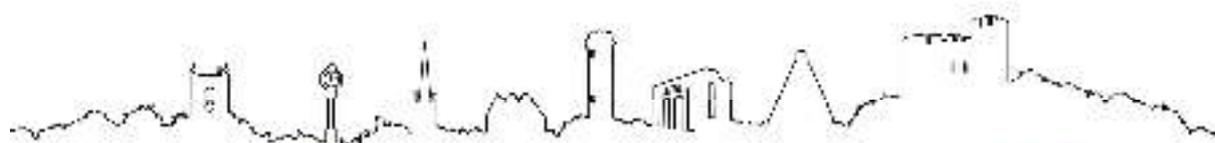
Contact Officer: Mr S Smith
Telephone: 01384 815377
Email: simon.smith@dudley.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Fees Comparison Neighbouring Authorities

List of background documents

None

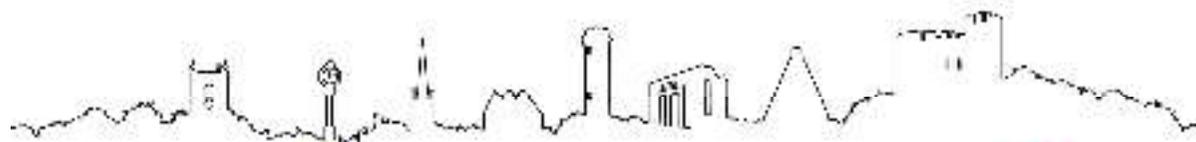


APPENDIX 1

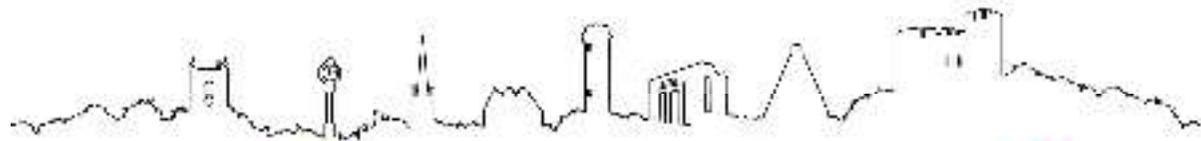
LICENCE/PERMIT	DUDLEY	WOLVERHAMPTON	SANDWELL	BIRMINGHAM
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence Grant - 1 year - 3 year - Knowledge retest - Driving test-	£252.00 £475.00 £82.00 after 3 rd test £83.00	£64.00 £120.00 One day Driver Training and Knowledge Test / Retest - £40.00 Driving Assessment / Retest £79.00 Immediate knowledge re-test £15 Immigration check £125.00 Fast track application £100	1 year - £153.00 3 year - £352.00 (inc DBS & DVLA) Knowledge test - £30.00 (If first test failed)	HC PH 1 year - £149.00 £141.00 2 years £178.00 £170.00 3 years £207.00 £199.00
				Plus Hackney Carriage/Private Hire knowledge test - £100.00 Verbal /written Test £50.00 Hackney Carriage/Private Hire folder £29.00 each
Renewal 1 year - 3 year -	£126.00 £315.00	£40.00 £100.00	1 year £104.00/£148.00 (every 3 rd year) plus DBS 3 year £303.00 (Not including DBS Fee)	HC PH 1 year - £106.00 £98.00 2 year - £135.00 £127.00 3 year - £164.00 £156.00
Late Renewals				1 year £149.00 £141.00 2 year £178.00 £170.00 3 year £207.00 £199.00



When applied for together				
Grant	1 year - 3 year -	£318.00 £673.00	£105.00 £200.00 Conversion £80 plus £21 Test Fee	1 year - £204.00 (inc DBS & DVLA) 3 year - £503.00 (inc DBS & DVLA)
Renewal	1 year - 3 year -	£174.00 £480.00	£105.00 £200.00	1 year - £155.00 every 3 rd year year £199.00 – plus DBS 3 year - £454.00 (inc DBS)
Disability course		£29.00	£40.00	-
Disability course - admin fee		£9.00		-
Private Hire Operator's Licence	1 year - £445.00 3 year - £1267.00 5 year - £2001.00		Large: New 1 year - £1077.00 Renewal 1 year - £785.00 Renewal 5 years - £3140.00 Small: (4 drivers or less) New 1 year - £1077 Renewal 1 year - £150.00 Renewal 5 years - £500.00	Application (one year) - £624 Application (three years) - £1650.00 Application (Five years)- £2500 1 year grant small operators - £284 5 year Grant small operator - £979 5 year Renewal small operator - £935 1 Year Renewal small operator - £241.00



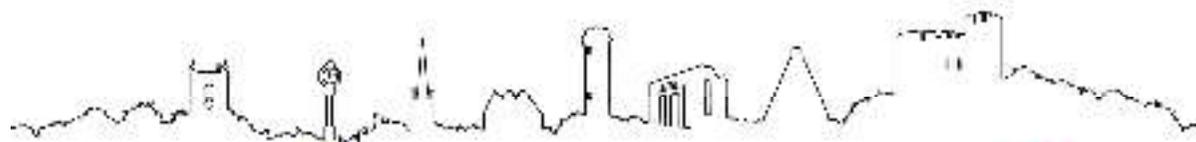
			Renewal (1 years) -£520 Renewal (3 Years) £1450 Renewal (5 years) £2250	1 year Grant- £805.00 1 year Renewal - £762.00 Operator 5 year Grant - £3,584 Operator 5 year Renewal - £3,541 1 Year Grant large operators £4246 5 Year Grant large operator £20420 1 Year Renewal large operator £4208 5 Year Renewal large operator £20382 1 Year Grant very large operator £8289 5 Year Grant very large operator £40637 1 Year Renewal very large operator £8251 5 Year Renewal very large operator £40599
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Working as One Council in
 the historic capital of the Black Country



Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence new/expiry	£250.00 Renewal £240.00	Hackney/Private Hire 0-10 years old 1 year £135.00 HC Over 10 years old and under 16 years old PH over 10 years old and under 12 years old 1 year £299.00 or 6 months £169.00	Brand New vehicle £325.00 New £381.00 less than 5 years old Renewal less than 5 years old - £353.00 Renewal (over 5 years old) - £399.00	HC Grant - £123.00 PH Grant - £127.00 Renewal HC - £94.00 PH - £113.00 Late Renewal PH – 127.00 HC – 108.00
Retest (PHV and HCV)	£51.00	Fast Track New/Renewal £180.00	£55.00 Admin fee missed garage appt £55.00	
4/6 months test (PHV and HCV)	£159.00	Exceptional condition assessment required at 16 years and each subsequent 6 months £120	<u>Over 5 years old</u> 1 st 4 months - £160.00 2 nd 4 months £157.00 3 rd 4 months - £157.00 <u>Less than 5 years old</u> 1 st 6 months tests - £218.00 2 nd 6 month tests - £216.00	
Plate (PHV and HCV)	£42.00		£30.00 Plate	
Cancelled Vehicle Test	£101.00			
Administration Fee	£39.00		£30.00 non-refundable administration fee on each application	£72.00 for amendments Copy licence £29.00 Replacement Copy Licence £29.00



			Change vehicle registration (cherished number plate) £30	
			Application for exemption for roof sign/door signs £30	
Special Events Vehicles	£342.00			
Retests	£ 81.00			
Plate	£ 45.00			
DBS – Enhanced	£62.00	£79.49 External Third party (DVLA INCLUDED)	£44.00	
DVLA Share Driving Licence	£1.00		£5.00	
Badge	£10.00 – Private Hire/Hackney		£30.00 Badge replacement - £4.50	£29.00
Bracket	£15.00		£13.00	
Late Insurance Production fee	£38.00		£50.00	
Transfer of Vehicle	£38.00		£50.00	£87.00

