

Open

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Agenda

10.30am
Monday, 4 December 2023
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Licensing and Environmental Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor P Harrison
Vice-Chairman: Councillor K Henderson

Councillor J Aston

Councillor P Dyke

Councillor I Hardiman

Councillor S Miah

Councillor C Rogers

Councillor J F Byng

Councillor K Gale

Councillor M McDonnell

Councillor M Rayner

Councillor A Sutton

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to request to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Disclosure of Interests

Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, they are required to consider in ADVANCE of each meeting whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda. If advice is needed, Members should contact the Monitoring Officer or other legal officer in good time before the meeting.

If any Member or co-opted Member of the Council identifies a DPI or ORI which they have not already registered on the Council's register of interests or which requires updating, they should complete the disclosure form which can be obtained from Democratic Services at any time, copies of which will be available at the meeting for return to the Monitoring Officer.

Members and co-opted Members are required to disclose any DPIs and ORIs at the meeting.

Where the matter relates to a DPI they may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where the matter relates to an ORI they may not vote on the matter unless granted an advance dispensation.

Where a Member or co-opted Member has an NRI which directly relates to their financial interest or wellbeing, or that of a relative or close associate, they must disclose the interest at the meeting, may not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter affects the NRI of a Member or co-opted Member, the Code of Conduct sets out the test which must be applied by the MEMBER to decide whether disclosure is required. Again please ensure you have spoken in ADVANCE to the relevant legal officer and determined whether it is appropriate to declare the NRI and leave.

For further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Karen Morton, Assistant Committee Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732726 or email committee.services@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Monday, 4 December 2023

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2 October 2023.	6
5.	Potential reform of policy on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing To receive a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asks members to consider responses received during the recent consultation on the proposal to amend the Council's hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licensing policy, as part of the programme of reform agreed by the Committee in August 2023.	9
6.	Review of Fees and Charges for the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2024/25 To receive a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which informs members of the recent review of the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function fees and charges for the financial year 2024/25.	30

7.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
8.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

9.	<p>Application for Grant of a Licence to Drive Private Hire Vehicles</p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that presents the Committee with an application for the grant of a licence to drive private hire vehicles. The Committee are asked to consider the application and decide if the applicant is a fit and proper person to be granted such a licence.</p>	
10.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

2 October 2023 (10.30am)

Present:

Councillors: P Harrison (Chairman), J Aston, J F Byng, P Dyke, K Gale, I Hardiman, M McDonnell, S Miah, M Rayner, C Rogers and A Sutton.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Henderson (Vice Chairman).

LIC.17 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.18 Declaration of Interests

Councillor S Miah declared that in respect of exempt agenda item no. 7 - Application for Grant of a Licence to Drive Private Hire Vehicles, that the applicant is known to him as a client of his firm and that he would leave the meeting at the appropriate time.

LIC.19 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.20 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

As recorded previously in the minutes, Councillor S Miah left the meeting at 10:35am because of his declaration of interest.

LIC.21 Application for Grant of a Licence to Drive Private Hire

The Chairman welcomed the applicant to the meeting and explained the order of proceedings. The Chairman gave members a further opportunity to declare any interests.

A copy of the applicant's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check certificate was circulated to members.

The Committee received a report from the Technical Officer (Licensing) that presented information for it to consider an application for the grant of a licence to drive private hire vehicles. The Technical Officer (Licensing) presented the exempt report and outlined key issues for the Committee to consider the application and decide if the applicant is a fit and proper person to be granted such a licence. He drew members' attention to the convictions listed on the DBS Certificate and declared on the application form. The Committee was given the opportunity to ask questions, to which the Technical Officer (Licensing) was able to give verbal responses.

The applicant then addressed the Committee in support of his application and explained the circumstances for not renewing his licence within the 14-day time limit under the recent rule changes. He responded to questions raised by members.

The Technical Officer (Licensing) and the applicant left the meeting at this point, (10.51am) for members to deliberate their decision. The Solicitor and the Assistant Committee Services Officer stayed in the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

The Technical Officer (Licensing) and applicant re-entered the meeting at 11.00am. The Solicitor read out the decision of the Committee.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Private Hire Driver's Licence to the applicant, the Committee has decided that: Notwithstanding the applicant's previous convictions, the Committee are satisfied, having taken into consideration the guidance contained in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and the "Guidelines on the Assessment of Previous Convictions" contained therein, that the applicant is a "fit and proper person" to be granted such a Private Hire Driver's Licence and the committee is justified in this decision because of the exceptional circumstances presented to the Committee during the hearing:

- 1. Over 46 and 44 years have passed since the commission of two of the offences. Over 30 years have passed since the commission of the third offence and the applicant has not committed any further offences since then with the exception of a recent minor speeding offence.**
- 2. The applicant had previously held a hackney and private hire driver licence with the council for several years and his file contained no record of any complaints received against him during the period.**
- 3. From the representations submitted by the applicant in respect of his application and his demeanour during the hearing, he appeared to the Committee to be a person of good character with whom the travelling public would be safe.**

- 4. Notwithstanding the above the Committee wishes to warn the applicant to be more careful in the future in respect of speeding to avoid any future issues with his licence.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.03am

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

4th December 2023

Potential reform of policy on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Niall McMenamin – 01905 822799 niall.mcmenamin@worcsregservices.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1: consultation responses

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that Members consider responses received during the recent consultation on the proposal to amend the Council’s hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licensing policy, as part of the programme of reform agreed by the Committee in August 2023.
- 1.2 Having considered the responses, ask that members approve the recommendations to increase both the lower and upper age limits applicable to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, and approve the recommendation that no fossil fuelled vehicles will enter the hackney carriage and private hire fleet after 31st December 2026.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to have regard to the responses received during the recent consultation and RESOLVE to:

- 2.1 **Approve an amendment to the existing hackney carriage vehicle policy which prohibits the licensing of fossil-fuel driven vehicles entering the Council’s hackney carriage and private hire fleet after 31 December 2026.**
- 2.2 **Approve an amendment to the existing hackney carriage vehicle age policy to take effect from the 1st January 2024 so that:**
 - l) **The lower vehicle age limit applicable to all new, replacement and temporary hackney carriage and private hire vehicles is 5 years from the date of first registration.**

- II) The upper age limit applicable to all new, replacement and temporary hackney carriage and private hire vehicles is 12 years from the date of first registration.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the legal agreement established with the formation of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, licensing remains a reserved matter. As a reserved matter all policy decisions, as well as income and fee setting, remain the responsibility of the Council.
- 3.2 In 2019 the Council declared a climate change emergency and in doing so committed to acting in respect of reducing carbon emissions, which will in turn lead to improvements to air quality. One of the obvious areas of concern is transport emissions with the Council working on reviewing taxi policies to facilitate the transition to zero emission and encourage the licensing of non-fossil fuel reliant vehicles.
- 3.3 During the August 2023 committee meeting, members received a report which put forward three proposals, these being:
1. The introduction of a future date prohibiting the licensing of any new fossil fuel vehicles entering the hackney carriage and private hire fleet,
 2. An amendment to the council taxi policy in relation to increasing the current lower and upper age limits applicable to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
 3. A proposal to reduce licensing fees in relation to non-fossil fuel powered hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
- 3.4 Having considered the above proposals, members approved the undertaking of a 12-week consultation with trade members, key stakeholders, and the general public on the proposals, with the results being present to committee for consideration at its December 2023 meeting.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on the proposals took place over a 12-week period, between 11th August 2023 and 5th November 2023. It comprised of a survey which was available to complete online via the Council's website and was promoted by the Council's Communications Team, across a range of channels. Paper versions of the consultation survey were also made available for those that wished to respond in that way.
- 4.2 Information on the consultation, along with details on how to respond were sent directly to:
- Those licensed by Wyre Forest District Council to drive or use a vehicle as a hackney carriage or private.

- Those licensed by Wyre Forest District Council to operate private hire vehicles.
- National Private Hire and Taxi Association.
- Licensed Private Hire Car Association.
- West Mercia Police.
- Safer Roads Partnership.
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Worcestershire County Council - Relevant contacts at Worcestershire County Council, including those responsible for safeguarding children and adults and arranging home to school transport.
- Relevant interest groups, including those that represent people with disabilities and the elderly.
- Relevant local business groups via the Kidderminster BID.
- Elected Members.

4.3 In total there were 70 responses to the online questionnaire. Of those, 17 indicated that they were holders of either a taxi/private hire driver, vehicle or operator's licence. A copy of the questions and all responses received during the consultation are attached at "**Appendix 1**".

4.4 In response to question 1. *"To what extent do you agree that fossil-fuel driven vehicles (including hybrid vehicles) should not be allowed to enter the fleet after 31st December 2026"*, 24 respondents (34%) agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal. Of the 34 respondents (49%) who disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal, some of the relevant reasons cited were:

- Diesel is cleaner than it's ever been.
- People will not buy electric cars until they are the same price, and the battery will last a lot longer.
- Should wait and reconsider in line with the Government's introduction on the ban of fossil fuelled vehicles.
- Electric vehicles have not proved they are better for the environment yet.
- The proposals are too radical and should not be introduced until 2035.
- There are no charging points for electric vehicles.
- Electric vehicle prices are higher resulting in higher taxi fares.

4.5 The low level of response to the consultation, even from among members of the trade, is disappointing. During the consultation, the present Government announced a delay to the date after which petrol or diesel vehicles would not be for sale, from 2030 to 2035. However, His Majesty's Opposition have made clear that they would reverse that decision if they win next year's General Election. Therefore, it is uncertain that the 2035 date will apply. In any event, implementation of the consultation proposal was deliberately timed to take effect before the date of the Government's ban. It is not the case that there are no publicly available charging points for electric vehicles in Wyre Forest and, as the report in August made clear, they are expected to become ever more widespread over the next few years.

4.6 While the Committee will wish to be aware of the consultation response, the decision on whether to proceed rests with it. For the reasons set out in the earlier report in respect of reducing carbon and particulate emissions, this report recommends proceeding with the change – which is not a cliff edge as, given the

other recommendations in this report, there could continue to be petrol and diesel vehicles in the fleet until at least 2038 (e.g. a new vehicle, licensed for the first time in 2026, would be able to be licensed until 2038 and possibly beyond that if the vehicle is of an “exceptional standard”).

4.7 In response to questions 2, 3 and 4, in relation to increasing both the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle lower and upper age limits, a clear majority of respondents were in favour for hackney carriages (57%) and far more supported the change for private hire vehicles than opposed it (47% v 30%). Of the respondents who disagreed with this proposal, the following comments were made:

- Vehicles are worn out now so if they stay on longer, they will be completely worn out.
- Hackney carriages should be extended to 15 years, subjected to a test three times in a year after year 12.

4.8 The perception that safety and/or the condition of vehicles would be undermined because of these changes can be significantly if not fully mitigated by the fact that any change to vehicle age policy would not undermine any other requirement placed on a licence holder or their vehicle in respect of condition, internal space and arrangements, safety, signage, cleanliness etc. Furthermore, electric vehicles would still be subject to the twice-yearly safety inspections, which are required for all licensed vehicles.

4.9 In response to question 5, *“To what extent do you agree that there should be a discount on licensing fees for vehicles that do not use fossil fuels (petrol or diesel)”* 43 respondents (70%) were in favour this proposal. Although the principle was supported by the consultation, it is not proposed to proceed with such an approach at the present time as the number of licences in issue has seen a small reduction, despite the significant reduction in fees that took effect in April 2023. In that context, reducing fee income yet further below the actual cost of the licensing function is not considered appropriate at the present time.

4.10 Similarly, for question 12, *“How likely would you choose to travel in an electric vehicle over a fossil fuel vehicle if you had the option”* again most of the respondents 24 (46%) indicated that an electric vehicle would be their preference over a fossil fuelled vehicle.

4.11 In summary, most of the respondents to the consultation were in favour of the proposals to amend and increase vehicle age limits in line with the proposal being put forward and to introduce a licence fee reduction for non-fossil fuel hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. However, the proposal to prohibit the licensing of fossil-fuel powered vehicles entering the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle fleet, after 31st December 2026, was met with resistance as most respondents disagreed with the proposal being put forward.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Licensing fees and charges are based on full recovery of costs. Any reduction to hackney carriage and private hire vehicle fees would have financial implications for the Council, as the proposals in relation to the reduction of fees would reduce

income generated by Worcestershire Regulatory Services and would have to be made good by WFDC.

- 5.2 There is no data available at the present time to predict the take up of non-fossil fuel vehicles and therefore assess the impact on the Council's hackney carriage and private hire income budget.

6 LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 When considering any application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence, the Council, in accordance with Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall not grant such a licence unless they are satisfied that the vehicle is suitable in type, size and design for use as a private hire vehicle, not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage; in a suitable mechanical condition and also safe and comfortable.
- 6.2 Under Section 47 of the Act the Council may attach to the grant of a hackney carriage licence such conditions as it may consider reasonably necessary.
- 6.3 Under Section 48 of the Act the Council may attach to the grant of a private hire vehicle licence such conditions as it may consider reasonably necessary.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 A copy of this notice must also be deposited at the offices of the council for a period of twenty-eight days from the date of the first publication and must be available for public inspection at all reasonable hours without payment.
- 6.6 All regulatory policies relating to Environmental Health and Licensing approved by Wyre Forest District Council should comply with the Regulators Code. The Regulators Code is made under the provisions of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. It seeks to promote proportionate, consistent, and targeted regulatory activity through the development of transparent and effective dialogue and understanding between regulators and those they regulate.
- 6.7 The proposals set out within this report seek to incentivise new and existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicle operators and drivers to transition to non-fossil fuel powered vehicles.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 To minimise any risk of legal challenge when introducing new or amending existing hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy, officers have undertaken a full public consultation on the proposals contained within this report. Those consulted were licence holders, relevant stakeholders, and the general public. The outcome of this consultation is being considered by Members of the Licensing and Environmental Committee prior to any changes taking place.

8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no equality impact assessment issues arising from this report. There is no change proposed to requirements for hackney carriages to be accessible to wheelchairs.
- 8.2 The recommendations in the report offer clear advantages in respect of health and climate change, by supporting the transition away from fossil fuels which, over time, will reduce carbon and particulate emissions from the taxi and private hire vehicle fleet.

9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The report recommends that committee consider all responses received during the recent 12-week consultation and implement the changes highlighted at 2.1 and 2.2 of the report to support and facilitate the transition to zero emission, by encouraging the licensing of only non-fossil fuel reliant vehicles after 2026.

10 CONSULTEES

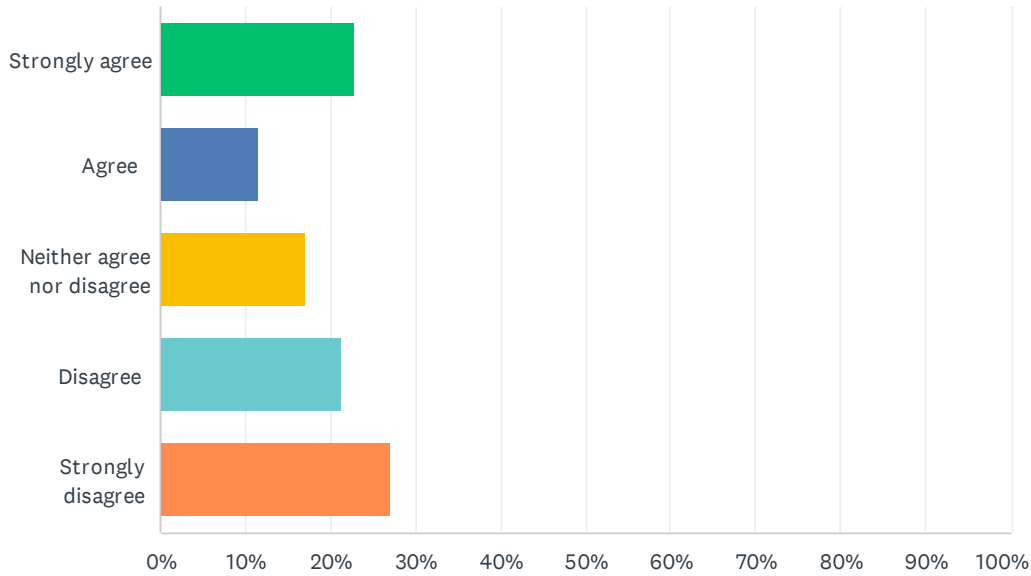
- 10.1 Solicitor to the Council, Head of Resources, Legal Services.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Review of Fees and Charges for the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2023/24 - 5th December 2022 - Licensing and Environmental Committee.
- 11.2 Potential Reform of Policy on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing – 7th August 2023 - Licensing and Environmental Committee.
- 11.3 Current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing policy [wfdc-taxi-and-private-hire-licensing-policy-with-effect-01-09-2022.pdf \(worcsregservices.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/wfdc-taxi-and-private-hire-licensing-policy-with-effect-01-09-2022.pdf)

Q1 To what extent do you agree that fossil-fuel driven vehicles (including hybrid vehicles) should not be allowed to enter the fleet after 31 December 2026?

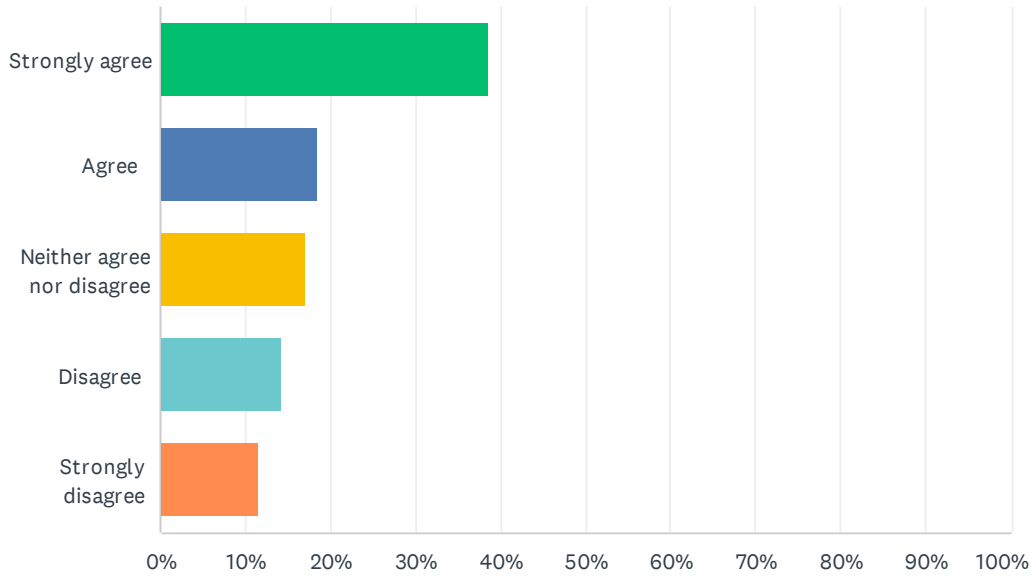
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	22.86%	16
Agree	11.43%	8
Neither agree nor disagree	17.14%	12
Disagree	21.43%	15
Strongly disagree	27.14%	19
TOTAL		70

Q2 To what extent do you agree that the maximum age for vehicles entering the fleet be increased from two years to five years, with effect from 1 January 2024?

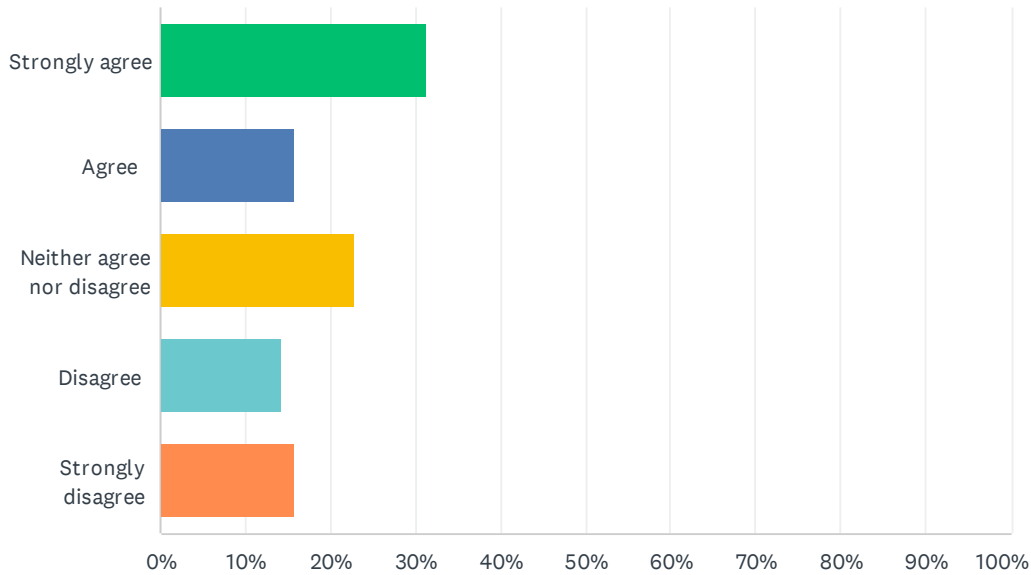
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	38.57%	27
Agree	18.57%	13
Neither agree nor disagree	17.14%	12
Disagree	14.29%	10
Strongly disagree	11.43%	8
TOTAL		70

Q3 We are proposing that the maximum age for vehicle licence renewal increases from seven years for private hire vehicles to 12 years, with effect from 1 January 2024. To what extent do you agree with this proposal?

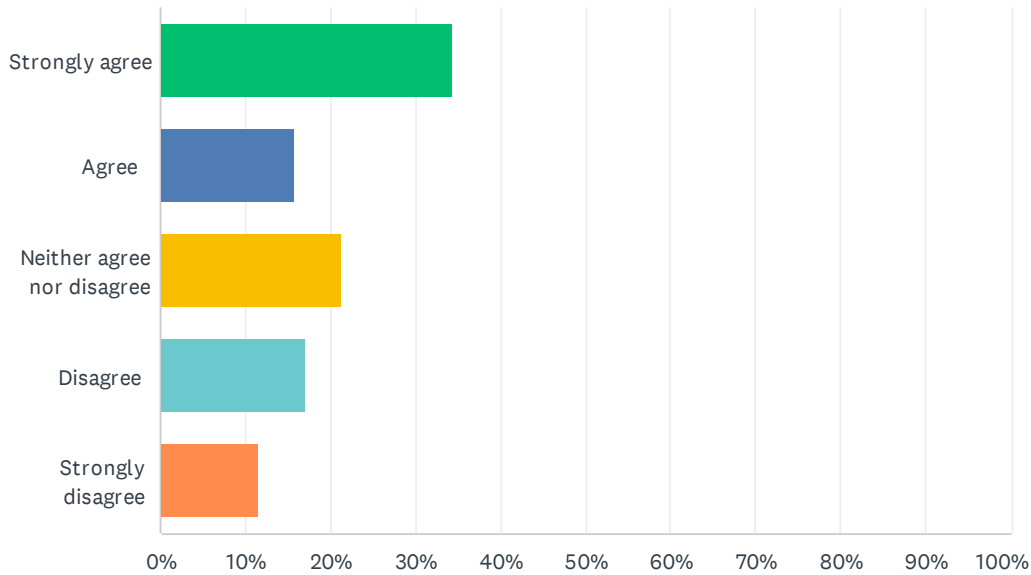
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	31.43%	22
Agree	15.71%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	22.86%	16
Disagree	14.29%	10
Strongly disagree	15.71%	11
TOTAL		70

Q4 We are proposing that the maximum age for vehicle licence renewal increases from ten years for hackney carriage vehicles to 12 years, with effect from 1 January 2024. To what extent do you agree with this proposal?

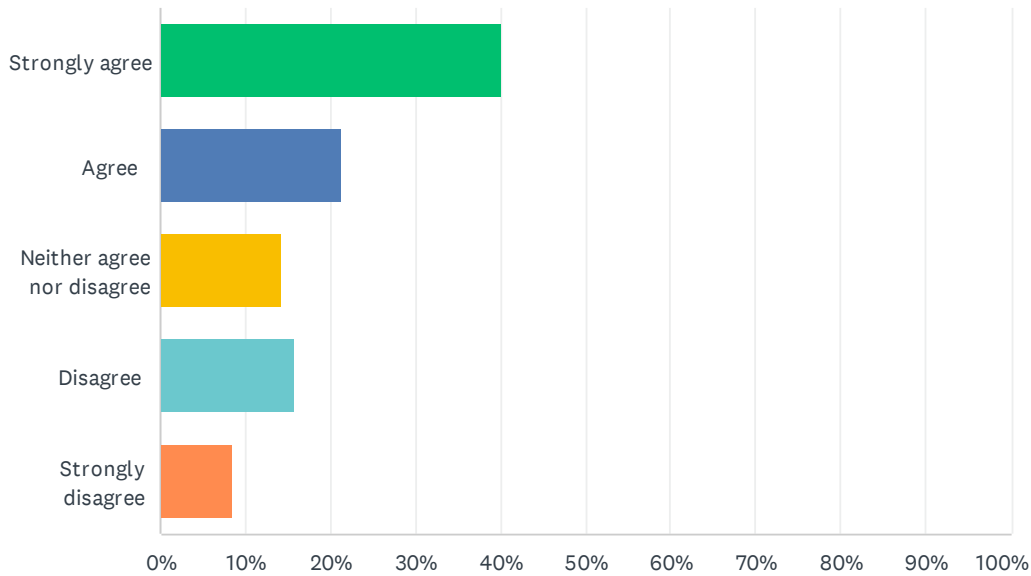
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	34.29%	24
Agree	15.71%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	21.43%	15
Disagree	17.14%	12
Strongly disagree	11.43%	8
TOTAL		70

Q5 To what extent do you agree that there should be a discount on licensing fees for vehicles that do not use fossil fuels (petrol or diesel)?

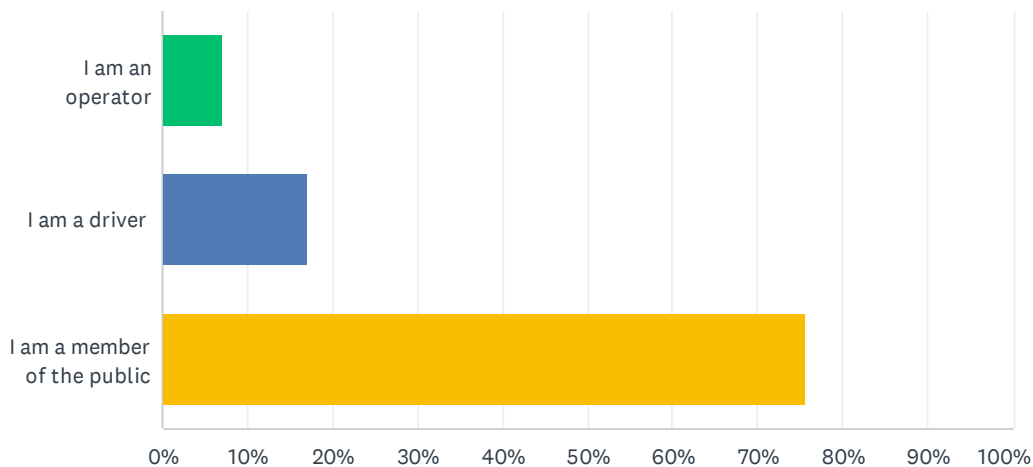
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	40.00%	28
Agree	21.43%	15
Neither agree nor disagree	14.29%	10
Disagree	15.71%	11
Strongly disagree	8.57%	6
TOTAL		70

Q6 In what capacity are you answering this survey?

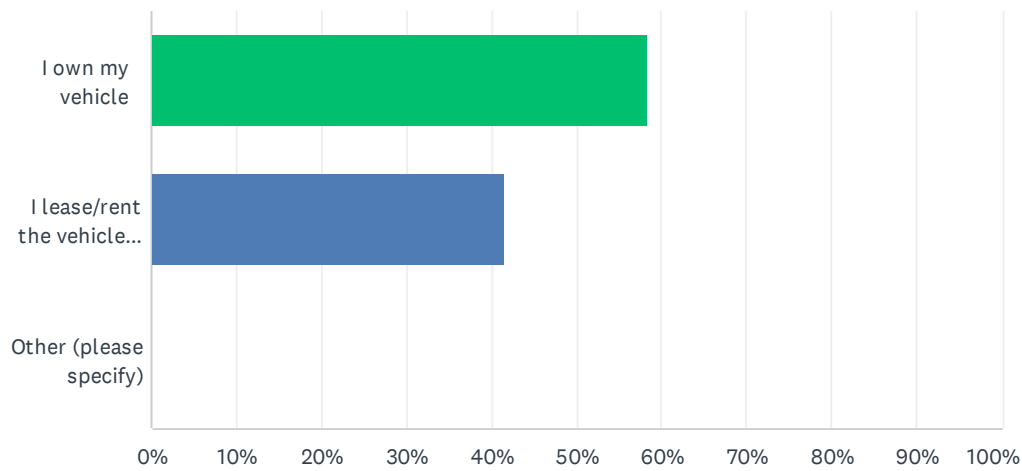
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am an operator	7.14%	5
I am a driver	17.14%	12
I am a member of the public	75.71%	53
TOTAL		70

Q7 Do you own your vehicle or lease/rent it from an operator?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 59



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I own my vehicle	58.33%	7
I lease/rent the vehicle from an operator	41.67%	5
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		12

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

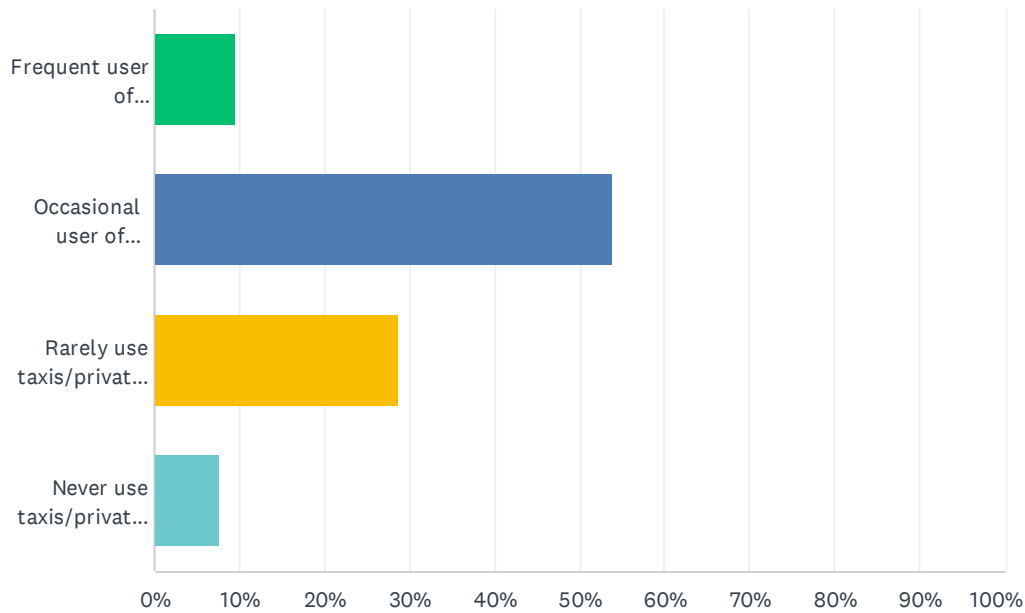
Q8 Any additional comments?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 66

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	xx x	10/1/2023 4:18 PM
2	Private hire cars should be available in more than 1 colour(red) . I have just done a search on auto trader for a Skoda saloon from 2019/2023 and out of 71 cars , only 1 is red. Maybe silver, black and red would benefit all. More scope and red coloured vehicles are more expensive.	9/6/2023 6:37 PM
3	Diesel cleaner than it's ever been, nobody will buy electric cars until they are the same price, and the battery will last a lot longer	9/6/2023 5:57 PM
4	For Hackney it should be extended to 15 years subjected to test three times in a year after year 12. Reference : cost of the Hackney vehicle as compared to private hire. Council should give little bit extra as compared to price hire . Same extension is not fare . For putting one Hackney vehicle on road in wyre forest you can buy 3-5 good private hires(I hope you understand the pain of investing in Hackney)	9/6/2023 3:13 PM
5	Vehicles are worn out now so if they stay on longer they will be completely worn out.	9/6/2023 3:00 PM

Q9 How often do you use taxis/private hire vehicles?

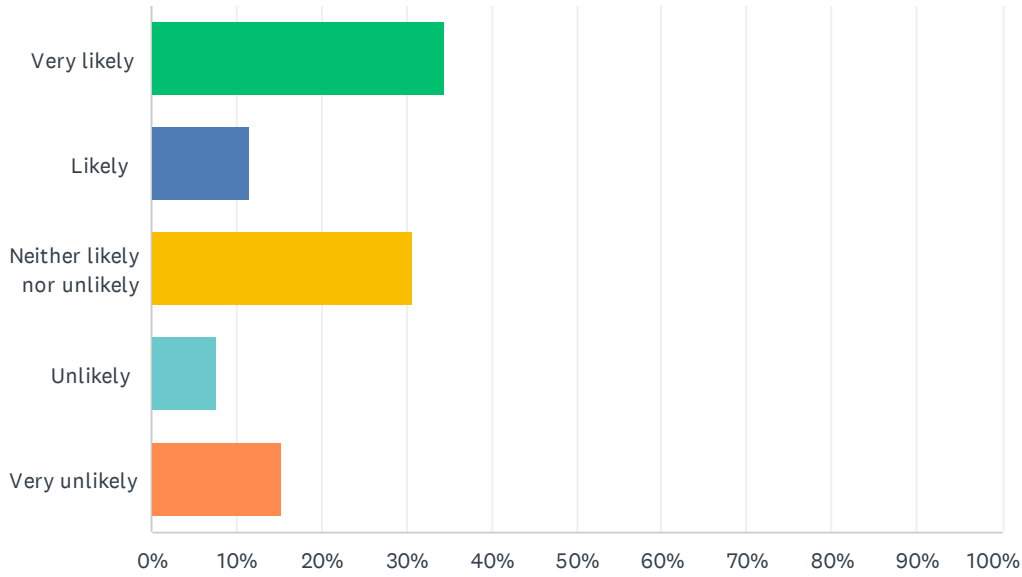
Answered: 52 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Frequent user of taxis/private hire vehicles (at least once a week)	9.62%	5
Occasional user of taxis/private hire vehicles (at least once a month)	53.85%	28
Rarely use taxis/private hire vehicles (once or twice a year)	28.85%	15
Never use taxis/private hire vehicles	7.69%	4
TOTAL		52

Q10 How likely would you be to choose to travel in an electric vehicle over a fossil fuel vehicle if you had the option?

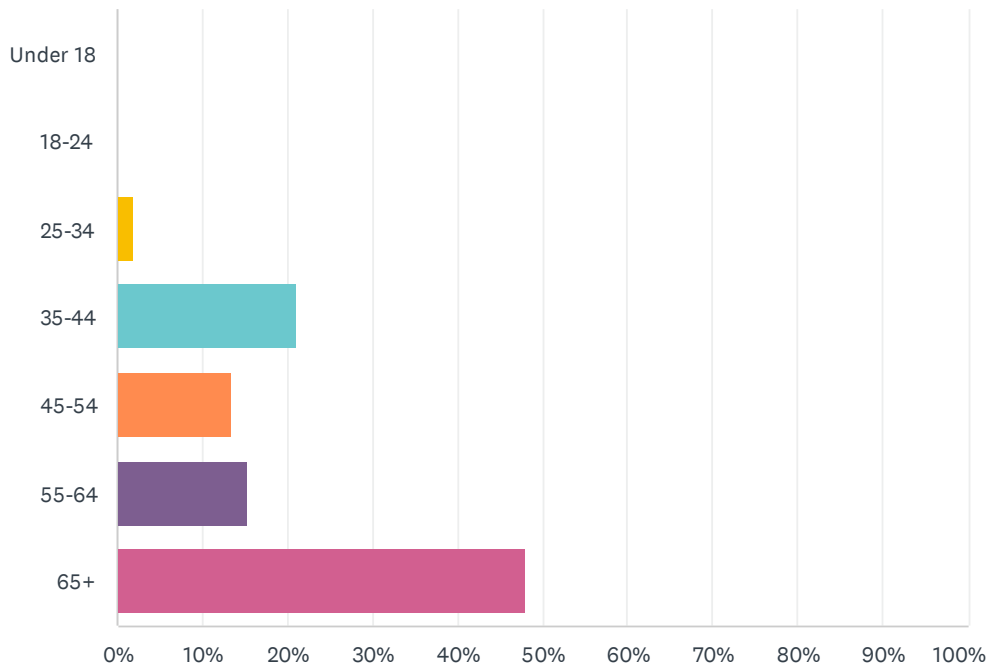
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very likely	34.62%	18
Likely	11.54%	6
Neither likely nor unlikely	30.77%	16
Unlikely	7.69%	4
Very unlikely	15.38%	8
TOTAL		52

Q11 Your age

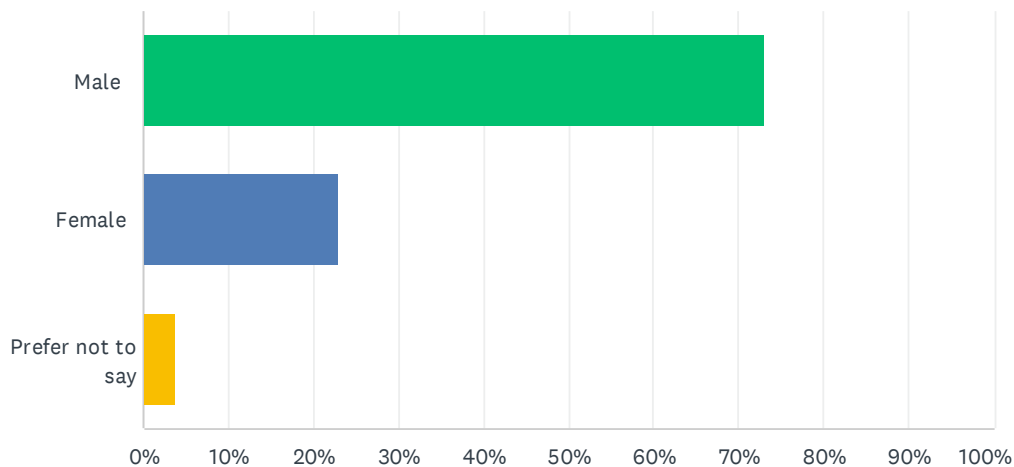
Answered: 52 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	0.00%	0
25-34	1.92%	1
35-44	21.15%	11
45-54	13.46%	7
55-64	15.38%	8
65+	48.08%	25
TOTAL		52

Q12 Your sex

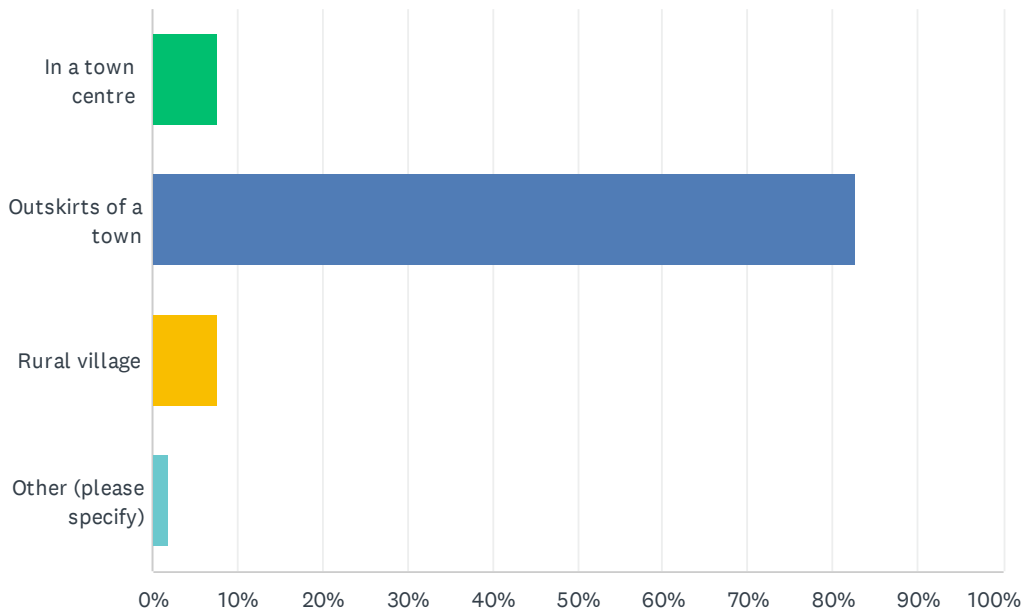
Answered: 52 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	73.08%	38
Female	23.08%	12
Prefer not to say	3.85%	2
TOTAL		52

Q13 Where do you live?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
In a town centre	7.69% 4
Outskirts of a town	82.69% 43
Rural village	7.69% 4
Other (please specify)	1.92% 1
TOTAL	52

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Outside the area	9/28/2023 12:07 PM

Q14 Any additional comments?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 63

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I'm more than happy to support most of the proposals in this consultation, with the exception of banning fossil-fuel taxi's from 2026 Considering Governments recent announcement to delay the introduction on the ban of the manufacture/production and sale of petrol/diesel vehicles from 2030 to 2035, surely the council's proposal to ban all non-fossil fuel driven taxi's is a little premature. If these non-electric Taxis are banned in Wyre Forest, I see there being a risk that no taxi's will be licensed in the Wyre forest area from 2026 and no therefore no taxi's will be available to hire from the towns taxi ranks. Would it not be better to simply delay this proposal and revisit it in, say 2028/29/30 with a new revised plan.	11/2/2023 5:26 PM
2	We should not put out local taxi firms at a disadvantage as they provide an excellent service. Extra costs to their business could put them at risk. Government requirements for electric vehicles are already sufficient to make this change without putting extra pressure on local taxi firms.	10/5/2023 6:43 AM
3	The UK Net zero policy is a fallacy , The UK as a whole, only contributes to 0.1% of the worlds pollution, why then are British people being penalised and made to pay for green policies, that will have little or no effect, on world pollution.	10/2/2023 10:52 PM
4	Electric vehicles have not proved they are better for the enviroment yet..It needs more time to find out. Look at Vaping for example one time thought safe, now it isn't.	10/2/2023 2:48 PM
5	I am responding as a trade body, which was not an option in an earlier question	9/28/2023 12:07 PM
6	In light of the shift in government policy and the delay announced to the ban on the sale of petrol / diesel fuelled vehicles, the proposals are too radical and need to be revisited. The "ban" on licensing new petrol / diesel vehicles as taxis should not be brought in until 2035 at the earliest to align with the new Government policy.	9/20/2023 9:49 PM
7	Happy for electric vehicles to be increased to 5 year. No changes to fossil fuelled vehicles, let them stay as they are until 2030. Then no fossil vehicles entering for 2030. Increase the rate for fossil fuels annually. Encourage residents to choose wf vehicles.	9/6/2023 8:36 PM
8	There are no charge points Electricity is expensive Used vehicle prices are high Electric vehicle prices are even higher All of this will result in higher fees and drivers asking for more than they should There should be money available for drivers to apply for to support them getting electricity first This is maybe being rushed without having the right stuff in place first If something like a grant was available to them then I'd be more happy to be supportive	9/6/2023 7:39 PM

Q15 Any additional comments?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 69

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	With Private Hire any colour would make a difference to cost, and feel no icons etc on the side of vehicles.	10/17/2023 3:56 PM
2	Will other Worcestershire boroughs be doing this as it seems pointless if we don't all pull together	9/6/2023 2:57 PM

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

4th December 2023

Review of Fees and Charges for the Council’s Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2024/25.

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Niall McMenamin – 01905 822799 niall.mcmenamin@worcsregservices.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Licensing and Regulatory Services - Income Service Options

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the recent review of the Council’s Licensing and Regulatory Services Function fees and charges for the financial year 2024/25.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 **Note the contents of this report, in particular the draft Licensing & Environmental Health fees and charges for 2024/25 at Appendix 1.**
- 2.2 **Resolves to recommend to Council that the proposals for fees and charges within the Council’s Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2024/25, as detailed in the report, be included in the Council’s 2024/25 budget strategy.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As part of the legal agreement established with the formation of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, licensing remains a reserved matter. As a reserved matter all policy decisions, as well as income and fee setting remain the responsibility of the council.
- 3.2 It is the role of the council to review and set its licensing fees and charges on an annual basis. Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing and Support Services Manager works closely with senior council officers and the council’s finance team in establishing accurate details, regarding working towards the full cost recovery of the licensing service in relation to the relevant Cost Centres.

3.3 This annual review of licensing fees and charges has now taken place and a copy of the proposed Licensing & Environmental Health fees and charges for 2024/25 is attached at “**Appendix 1**”.

3.4 The Council’s current financial strategy in respect of the Council’s Licensing and Regulatory Services fees and charges is generally to increase them by 5% which is in line with other district council functions.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 A review of the licensing fees and charges has resulted in a fee structure based on full recovery of costs.

4.2 Members should note that Alcohol and Entertainment (Licensing Act 2003) licensing fees are set nationally by Central Government and therefore are not under the control of the Licensing and Environment Committee.

4.3 Ideally taxi licensing fees and charges should remain broadly cost neutral. The Licensing and Environment Committee in early 2023 made the decision to radically realign vehicle, driver and operator fees by reducing them considerably. This was done with the aim to assist a package of reform, that would address other concerns about aspects of licensing policy in Wyre Forest and the need to see positive progress in moving towards a fleet that is not dependent on fossil fuels. The latter would be consistent with the Council’s declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019.

4.4 The impact of the fee reduction remains under review. Assessment as to whether it has or will lead to any increase or take up of new licences within the district and the impact on the Council budget will be determined in April 2024. Initial findings show that new licence take up is relatively low, this is possibly due to other restrictive policy matters which are currently under review. With this in mind, officers are proposing that committee recommend to Council that Taxi fees and charges are increased by 6.8%, which is in line with the current CPI. By doing so this would take into account both salary and internal service pressures but Members must note the cost of administering this service still exceeds the proposed increase so the council will continue to absorb these costs.

4.5 Animal Licensing fees have previously not been increased since the introduction of the new Animal Licensing regime in 2018. With proactive enforcement work in this important area of licensing having increased considerably, officers are proposing that committee recommend to Council to increase these fees by 8%. This percentage increase reflects the addition work and is being implemented consistently across all six districts.

4.6 All other licensing functions such as gambling, street trading, street amenity and scrap metal licensing should remain cost neutral, and the proposed 5% increase in fees reflect this from the financial details of the income generated.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 With the exception of statutory fees (which include the Licensing Act 2003 applications and certain Gambling Act 2005 applications) set by Central Government, taxi licensing fees and charges and the Council's Animal Licensing fees, it is proposed that all other fees should be increased by 5% rounded up, where appropriate. A list of the proposed fees and charges for the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution Control functions is attached at "**Appendix 1**".
- 5.2 The budget forecast details the cost versus income for licensing; excluding those statutory fees which are set by Central Government, shows that no projected surplus will be made in respect of the activities whose fees have been increased in the list of proposed fees and charges attached at "Appendix 1".

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The agreed income to be generated by the proposed licence fees and charges is in line with the current policy and legislative restrictions. The Council is not projected to make any surplus on the licensing activities for which the proposed fees are being increased for the forthcoming year.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 A copy of this notice must also be deposited at the offices of the council for a period of twenty-eight days from the date of the first publication and must be available for public inspection at all reasonable hours without payment.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that the Council's Regulatory Services Licensing fees and charges could be challenged. To minimise this risk the fees and charges must be designed to meet, but not exceed the cost the Council reasonably believes will be incurred in issuing of licences and the administration of the service.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no equality impact assessment issues arising from this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The fees and charges are non-profit making and Cost Centres will reflect the operation of the service.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Solicitor to the Council, Legal Services.

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None.

 Wyre Forest District Council			
Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2024	FROM 01-04-2024	FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Pollution Control			
LAPPC CHARGES			
Application Fee			
Standard process (Includes solvent emission activities)	£1,850.00	£1,850.00	No VAT currently charged
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners	£155.00	£155.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI and II combined	£257.00	£257.00	No VAT currently charged
VRs and other Reduced Fee Activities	£382.00	£382.00	No VAT currently charged
Reduced fee activities: Additional fee for operating without a permit	£99.00	£99.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile plant	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	No VAT currently charged
for the third to seventh applications	£985.00	£985.00	No VAT currently charged
for the eighth and subsequent applications	£498.00	£498.00	No VAT currently charged
Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310 to the above amounts			
Annual Subsistence Charge			
Standard process - Low	739.00 (+99.00)*	739.00 (+99.00)*	No VAT currently charged
Standard process - Medium	1,111.00 (+149.00)*	1,111.00 (+149.00)*	No VAT currently charged
Standard process - High	1,672.00 (+198.00)*	1,672.00 (+198.00)*	No VAT currently charged
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners - Low	£79.00	£79.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners - Medium	£158.00	£158.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners - High	£237.00	£237.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI and II combined - Low	£113.00	£113.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI and II combined - Medium	£226.00	£226.00	No VAT currently charged
PVRI and II combined - High	£341.00	£341.00	No VAT currently charged
VRs and other Reduced Fees - Low	£228.00	£228.00	No VAT currently charged
VRs and other Reduced Fees - Medium	£365.00	£365.00	No VAT currently charged
VRs and other Reduced Fees - High	£548.00	£548.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile plant, for first and second permits - Low**	£646.00	£646.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile plant, for first and second permits - Medium**	£1,034.00	£1,034.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile plant, for first and second permits - High**	£1,508.00	£1,508.00	No VAT currently charged
for the third to seventh permits - Low	£385.00	£385.00	No VAT currently charged
for the third to seventh permits - Medium	£617.00	£617.00	No VAT currently charged
for the third to seventh permits - High	£924.00	£924.00	No VAT currently charged
eighth and subsequent permits - Low	£198.00	£198.00	No VAT currently charged
eighth and subsequent permits - Medium	£316.00	£316.00	No VAT currently charged
eighth and subsequent permits - High	£473.00	£473.00	No VAT currently charged
Late payment Fee	£52.00	£52.00	No VAT currently charged
Where a Part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation, add an extra £103 to the above amounts			
Transfer and Surrender			
Standard process transfer	£169.00	£169.00	No VAT currently charged
Standard process partial transfer	£497.00	£497.00	No VAT currently charged
New operator at low risk reduced fee activity (extra one-off subsistence charge - see Art 15(2) of charging scheme)	£78.00	£78.00	No VAT currently charged
Surrender: all Part B activities	£0.00	£0.00	No VAT currently charged
Reduced fee activities: transfer	£0.00	£0.00	No VAT currently charged
Reduced fee activities: partial transfer	£47.00	£47.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary transfer for mobiles			
First transfer	£53.00	£53.00	No VAT currently charged
Repeat following enforcement or warning	£53.00	£53.00	No VAT currently charged
Substantial Change			
Standard process	£1,050.00	£1,050.00	No VAT currently charged
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	No VAT currently charged
PPC activity			
Reduced fee activities	£102.00	£102.00	No VAT currently charged
LAPPC Mobile Plant Charges (not using simplified permits)			
First and second permits - Application Fee	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	No VAT currently charged
First and second permits - Subsistence Fee - Low	£846.00	£846.00	No VAT currently charged
First and second permits - Subsistence Fee - Medium	£1,034.00	£1,034.00	No VAT currently charged
First and second permits - Subsistence Fee - High	£1,508.00	£1,508.00	No VAT currently charged
For the third to seventh permits - Application Fee	£985.00	£985.00	No VAT currently charged
For the third to seventh permits - Subsistence Fee - Low	£385.00	£385.00	No VAT currently charged
For the third to seventh permits - Subsistence Fee - Medium	£617.00	£617.00	No VAT currently charged
For the third to seventh permits - Subsistence Fee - High	£924.00	£924.00	No VAT currently charged
Eighth and subsequent permits - Application Fee	£498.00	£498.00	No VAT currently charged
Eighth and subsequent permits - Subsistence Fee - Low	£198.00	£198.00	No VAT currently charged
Eighth and subsequent permits - Subsistence Fee - Medium	£316.00	£316.00	No VAT currently charged
Eighth and subsequent permits - Subsistence Fee - High	£473.00	£473.00	No VAT currently charged
LA-IPPC CHARGES			
Note: every subsistence charge below includes the additional £103 charge to cover LA extra costs in dealing with reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation.			
Application	£3,363.00	£3,363.00	No VAT currently charged
Additional Fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Subsistence - Low	£1,446.00	£1,446.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Subsistence - Medium	£1,610.00	£1,610.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Subsistence - High	£2,333.00	£2,333.00	No VAT currently charged
Late Payment Fee	£52.00	£52.00	No VAT currently charged
Substantial Variation	£202.00	£202.00	No VAT currently charged
Transfer	£235.00	£235.00	No VAT currently charged
Partial Transfer	£698.00	£698.00	No VAT currently charged
Surrender	£698.00	£698.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

* The additional amounts in brackets must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation
 ** Not using simplified permits

LA-IPPC Charges

KEY
 Subsistence charges can be paid in 4 equal quarterly instalments paid on 1st April, 1st July, 1st October and 1st January. Where paid quarterly the total amount payable to the local authority will be increased by £38.

Reduced fee activities are listed in the Schedule to the Part B scheme.

Newspaper Advertisements
 Newspaper adverts may be required under EPR at the discretion of the LA as part of the consultation process when considering an application (see Chapter 9 of the General Guidance Manual). This will be undertaken and paid for by the LA and the charging scheme contains a provision for the LA to recoup its costs.

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Gambling Permits - Statutory Fee Set By Central Government			
Club Gaming			
New Application	£200.00	£200.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal Application	£200.00	£200.00	No VAT currently charged
Grant (Club Premises Cert Holder)	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal (Club Premises Cert Holder)	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Name	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00	No VAT currently charged
Existing Operator	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Club Gaming Machine			
New Application	£200.00	£200.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal Application	£200.00	£200.00	No VAT currently charged
Grant (Club Premises Cert Holder)	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal (Club Premises Cert Holder)	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation of Permit	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00	No VAT currently charged
Existing Operator	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Transfer of Permit	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Prize Gaming			
New Application	£300.00	£300.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal Application	£300.00	£300.00	No VAT currently charged
Transitional Application Fee	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00	No VAT currently charged
Existing Operator	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Gaming Machines			
New Application	£300.00	£300.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal Application	£300.00	£300.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Licence	£15.00	£15.00	No VAT currently charged
Existing Operator	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Licensed Premises less than 2 Gaming Machines			
New Application	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Licensed Premises more than 2 Gaming Machines			
New Application	£150.00	£150.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00	No VAT currently charged
Existing Operator	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Transfer of Permit	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation of Permit	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Small Society Lottery			
Lottery Application (New)	£40.00	£40.00	No VAT currently charged
Lottery Application (Renewal)	£20.00	£20.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Gambling Premises License Fees - Statutory Fee Set By Central Government			
Notification of Change			
Adult Gaming Centre	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Licence			
Adult Gaming Centre	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (tracks)	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Premise	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Notice			
Temporary Use Notices	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2024	FROM 01-04-2024	FROM 01-04-2024
Licensing Act 2003 - Statutory Fee Set By Central Government			
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Club Premise Certificate (New & Variation)			
Band A - (rateable value £0 to £4,300)	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Band B - (rateable value £4,301 to £33,000)	£190.00	£190.00	No VAT currently charged
Band C - (rateable value £33,001 to £87,000)	£315.00	£315.00	No VAT currently charged
Band D - (rateable value £87,001 to £125,000)	£450.00	£450.00	No VAT currently charged
Band E - (rateable value over £125,000)	£635.00	£635.00	No VAT currently charged
Club Premises Certificate Annual Fee			
Band A - (rateable value £0 to £4,300)	£70.00	£70.00	No VAT currently charged
Band B - (rateable value £4,301 to £33,000)	£180.00	£180.00	No VAT currently charged
Band C - (rateable value £33,001 to £87,000)	£295.00	£295.00	No VAT currently charged
Band D - (rateable value £87,001 to £125,000)	£320.00	£320.00	No VAT currently charged
Band E - (rateable value over £125,000)	£350.00	£350.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Certificate	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Notification of change of name or alteration of club rules	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Change of relevant registered address of club	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Personal Licence			
Application	£37.00	£37.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Premises Licence Application and Variation			
Band A - (rateable value £0 to £4,300)	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged
Band B - (rateable value £4,301 to £33,000)	£190.00	£190.00	No VAT currently charged
Band C - (rateable value £33,001 to £87,000)	£315.00	£315.00	No VAT currently charged
Band D - (rateable value £87,001 to £125,000)	£450.00	£450.00	No VAT currently charged
Band E - (rateable value over £125,000)	£635.00	£635.00	No VAT currently charged
Dx2	£900.00	£900.00	No VAT currently charged
Ex3	£1,905.00	£1,905.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for making of a provisional statement	£315.00	£315.00	No VAT currently charged
	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Vary a Designated Premises Supervisor	£23.00	£23.00	No VAT currently charged
Transfer a Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of Interest in a Premises	£21.00	£21.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of Change of name or address (holder of premises licence)	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Interim authority notice following death etc of Licence Holder	£23.00	£23.00	No VAT currently charged
Right of freeholder etc to be notified of licensing matters	£21.00	£21.00	No VAT currently charged
Premises Licence Annual Fee			
Band A - (rateable value £0 to £4,300)	£70.00	£70.00	No VAT currently charged
Band B - (rateable value £4,301 to £33,000)	£180.00	£180.00	No VAT currently charged
Band C - (rateable value £33,001 to £87,000)	£295.00	£295.00	No VAT currently charged
Band D - (rateable value £87,001 to £125,000)	£320.00	£320.00	No VAT currently charged
Band E - (rateable value over £125,000)	£350.00	£350.00	No VAT currently charged
Dx2	£640.00	£640.00	No VAT currently charged
Ex3	£1,050.00	£1,050.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Events Notice			
Temporary Events Notice	£21.00	£21.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of Temporary Events Notice	£10.50	£10.50	No VAT currently charged
Premises Licence Annual Fee - Large Venues			
Number of Persons Present :-			
5,000 to 9,999	£500.00	£500.00	No VAT currently charged
10,000 to 14,999	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
15,000 to 19,999	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	No VAT currently charged
20,000 to 29,999	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	No VAT currently charged
30,000 to 39,999	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	No VAT currently charged
40,000 to 49,999	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	No VAT currently charged
50,000 to 59,999	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	No VAT currently charged
60,000 to 69,999	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	No VAT currently charged
70,000 to 79,999	£24,000.00	£24,000.00	No VAT currently charged
80,000 to 89,999	£28,000.00	£28,000.00	No VAT currently charged
90,000 and over	£32,000.00	£32,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Premises Licence Additional Fee - Large Venues			
Number of Persons Present :-			
5,000 to 9,999	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
10,000 to 14,999	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	No VAT currently charged
15,000 to 19,999	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	No VAT currently charged
20,000 to 29,999	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	No VAT currently charged
30,000 to 39,999	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	No VAT currently charged
40,000 to 49,999	£24,000.00	£24,000.00	No VAT currently charged
50,000 to 59,999	£32,000.00	£32,000.00	No VAT currently charged
60,000 to 69,999	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	No VAT currently charged
70,000 to 79,999	£48,000.00	£48,000.00	No VAT currently charged
80,000 to 89,999	£56,000.00	£56,000.00	No VAT currently charged
90,000 and over	£64,000.00	£64,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Minor Variation	£85.00	£85.00	No VAT currently charged
Pavement Licence			
Every 6 Months	£100.00	£100.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

* A multiplier of twice the fee and annual charge applies where use of the premises is exclusively or primarily for the carrying on, on the premises of the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises.
 ** A multiplier of three times the fee and annual charge applies where use of the premises is exclusively or primarily for the carrying on, on the premises of the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises.
 Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024 Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Water Sampling and Analysis Charges - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services			
POLLUTION CONTROL			
Water Sampling Charges			
The Regulations allow local authorities to charge a fee, to enable reasonable costs of services (lab fees etc) to be recovered			
Proposed Fees and Charges			
Risk Assessment per hour (minimum 1 hour)	59.00 per hour	63.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Sampling (each visit) per hour (minimum 1 hour)	59.00 per hour	63.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Investigation per hour (minimum 1 hour)	59.00 per hour	63.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Granting an Authorisation per hour (minimum 1 hour)	59.00 per hour	63.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Analysing a sample taken under regulation 10 (small supplies) (Plus extra lab costs for additional parameters where required)	59.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	63.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
taken during monitoring for Group A parameters	59.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	63.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
taken during audit monitoring	59.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	63.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Where the request is made by the Owner/Occupier and the Authority is not the only service provider - VAT will be added.
Where the authority instigates the testing under regulations i.e. Periodic tests, assessments - VAT is not applicable in this instance.
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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2024	FROM 01-04-2024	FROM 01-04-2024
Control of Dogs - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Stray Dogs			
Statutory Fine per dog seized	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Kennelling charge per dog per day	£18.00	£20.00	No VAT currently charged
Kennelling of Dangerous Dogs charge per dog per day	£26.00	£28.00	No VAT currently charged
Administration Fee per stray dog seized	£17.00	£18.00	No VAT currently charged
Out of Hours Charge	£47.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Repeat stray charge	£42.00	£45.00	No VAT currently charged
Treatment Costs (wormer, flea treatment)	£12.00	£13.00	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Vet fees/treatment charges (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Return charge (during office hours when resource available)	£42.00	£45.00	No VAT currently charged
Penalty charge for non-compliance of Microchipping regulations	£0.00	£15.00	No VAT currently charged
Commercial Animal Services			
Dog Training Facility Welfare Assessment Check (upon request)	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Dog Kennelling per dog per day (excluding any hospitalisation)	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Dog Kennelling of dangerous dogs per dog per day (excluding any hospitalisation)	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Boarding of non-canine animals charges quoted at time	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Administration Charge	included in kennelling charges	included in kennelling charges	n/a
Veterinary Fees including Hospitalisation	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Transportation charge to include Collection, transport to vets if required and return of Dog/Animal to include travel time per hour	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Transportation charge to include Collection, transport to vets if required and return of Dangerous Dog to include travel time per hour	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Rehoming of animal	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate

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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Fees			
Hackney Carriage Vehicle (includes renewal plates and twice yearly vehicle inspections)	£240.00	£256.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Vehicle (includes renewal plates and twice yearly vehicle inspections)	£215.00	£230.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Business (Sell Car and Transfer Plate)	£113.00	£121.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Replacement HC & PH vehicle (excluding plates & decals)	£112.00	£120.00	No VAT currently charged
Initial or Replacement Licences/Plates (if lost or damaged)			
External Car Plate	£53.00	£57.00	No VAT currently charged
Internal (Executive Vehicles) Car Plate	£23.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Decals - Replacements	£21.00	£22.00	No VAT currently charged
Exemption Notice (Executive Vehicles)	£32.00	£34.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Testing			
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested within 48 hours of failure)	£32.00	£28.33	£34.00
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested after 48 hours of failure)	£61.00	£54.17	£65.00
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence (valid for 1 year)	£120.00	£128.00	No VAT currently charged
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence (valid for 3 years)	£330.00	£352.00	No VAT currently charged
Disclosure and Barring Service check	£64.00	£68.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers Badge	£27.00	£29.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers' Knowledge Test (re-test)	£56.00	£60.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators (valid for 1 year)	£120.00	£128.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators (valid for 5 years)	£490.00	£523.00	No VAT currently charged

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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2024	FROM 01-04-2024	FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Licensing and Registration - Animal Activity Licence			
Animal Activity Licence			
Animal Boarding, Dog Breeding, Pet Shops, Riding Establishments			
Application Fee	£329.00	£355.00	No VAT currently charged
1 Year Licence Fee	£184.00	£199.00	No VAT currently charged
2 Year Licence Fee	£364.00	£393.00	No VAT currently charged
3 Year Licence Fee	£546.00	£590.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	£240.00	£259.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	£163.00	£176.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet Fees	Charged at Cost recovery	Charged at Cost recovery	
Animal Activity Licence			
Performing Animals (No Risk Assessment)			
Application Fee	£219.00	£237.00	No VAT currently charged
1 Year Licence Fee	N/A	N/A	No VAT currently charged
2 Year Licence Fee	N/A	N/A	No VAT currently charged
3 Year Licence Fee	£300.00	£324.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	£158.00	£171.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	£163.00	£176.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet Fees	Charged at cost recovery	Charged at Cost recovery	

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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Licensing and Registration			
Dangerous Wild Animals Initial	£432.00	£454.00	No VAT currently charged
Dangerous Wild Animals Renewal	£285.00	£299.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)			
Zoo Licences Initial	£2,075.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	£2,179.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	No VAT currently charged
Zoo Licences Renewal	£1,866.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	£1,959.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Acupuncture, Tattooing, Electrolysis, Ear Piercing, Skin Piercing & Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring -			
Certificate of Registration: (a) Person	£221.00	£232.00	No VAT currently charged
Certificate of Registration: (b) Premise	£317.00	£333.00	No VAT currently charged
Certificate of Registration: (c) Persons & Premises	No Longer Available	No Longer Available	
Hypnotism			
Hypnotism Application for authorisation	£50.00	£53.00	No VAT currently charged
Sex Establishments Initial	£5,487.00	£5,761.00	No VAT currently charged
Sex Establishments Renewal	£2,107.00	£2,212.00	No VAT currently charged
Sex Establishments Transfer	£421.00	£442.00	No VAT currently charged
Sex Establishments Variation	n/a	price on application	No VAT currently charged

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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024 Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Gambling Premises Licence Fees			
Gambling Premises Licence - New Application			
Adult Gaming Centre	£1,853.00	£1,946.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£2,780.00	£2,919.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£2,315.00	£2,431.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£3,239.00	£3,401.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£1,853.00	£1,946.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Use Notices	£471.00	£495.00	No VAT currently charged
Gambling Premises Licence - Annual Fee			
Adult Gaming Centre	£927.00	£973.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£557.00	£585.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£927.00	£973.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£927.00	£973.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£693.00	£728.00	No VAT currently charged
Provisional Statement Application			
Adult Gaming Centre	£1,853.00	£1,946.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£2,780.00	£2,919.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£2,315.00	£2,431.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£3,239.00	£3,401.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£1,853.00	£1,946.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)			
Adult Gaming Centre	£879.00	£923.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,114.00	£1,170.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£879.00	£923.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,114.00	£1,170.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£879.00	£923.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer			
Adult Gaming Centre	£837.00	£879.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,061.00	£1,114.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£837.00	£879.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,061.00	£1,114.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£837.00	£879.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Vary			
Adult Gaming Centre	£883.00	£927.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,322.00	£1,388.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£1,101.00	£1,156.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,546.00	£1,623.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£883.00	£927.00	No VAT currently charged
Reinstatement of Licence			
Adult Gaming Centre	£837.00	£879.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,061.00	£1,114.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£837.00	£879.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,061.00	£1,114.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£837.00	£879.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services			
Site Licence - Initial (3 year licence)	£296.00	£311.00	No VAT currently charged
Site Licence - Renewal (3 year licence)	£245.00	£257.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Initial (3 year licence)	£148.00	£155.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Renewal (3 year licence)	£97.00	£102.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation of Licence	£67.00	£70.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of licence (if lost or stolen)	£26.00	£27.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

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Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2024
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Street Trading			
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Food - Initial	£2,704.00	£2,839.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	£2,573.00	£2,702.00	No VAT currently charged
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Non-Food - Initial	£2,252.00	£2,365.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	£2,032.00	£2,134.00	No VAT currently charged
For every additional 12 x 12 or part thereof or length more than 5m	£1,113.00	£1,169.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders - Initial	£1,061.00	£1,114.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders - Renewal	£1,061.00	£1,114.00	No VAT currently charged
Street Amenities (Control of Street Furniture)	£405.00	£425.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

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