



Classification

Item No.

Open / Closed

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	20 July 2023
Title of report:	Representations received in respect of the proposed increase to the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence fees and private hire operator licence fees
Report by:	Executive Director (Operations)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

This report relates to representation received from the Private Hire Drivers Association in relation to the recently advertised proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licence fees and Private Hire Operator license fees.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Licensing and Safety Committee considers the following options:

- To approve the advertised fees without modifications
- To approve the advertised fees with modifications

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Section 70(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives authority to a District Council to set the fees in relation to the Licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operator licenses.

Having varied the fees, the Council is required to advertise them in a local newspaper to allow persons wishing to object to them a period of 28 days from the date of publication of the notice to object. The requirement does not apply to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers licence fees.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 In February 2023, Full Council approved increases in fees and charges for 2023/2024. The proposed increase are shown below and should have come into operation on the 4 May 2023.

2.2 Current Fees

Vehicles under 3 years old	£238.00 (£182.00 plus £56.00*)
Vehicles over 3 years old	£294.00 (£182.00 plus £112.00*)
Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (One Year)	£288.00
Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (One Year)	£410.00
Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (5 Year)	£1401.00
Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (5 Year)	£1955.00

2.3 Proposed Fees

Vehicles under 3 years old	£260 (£200.00 plus £60.00*) (+£22)
Vehicles over 3 years old	£320 (£200.00plus £120.00*) (+£26)
Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (One Year)	£315.00 (+£27)
Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (One Year)	£450.00 (+£40)
Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (5 Year)	£1540.00 (+£139)
Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (5 Year)	£2250.00 (+£295)

2.4 *The vehicle test fee element of the respective vehicle licence fee payable by the Licensing Section to Bradley Fold garage is currently £56.00. The licensing service have been notified that this fee will increase to £60.00 **(+£4)** per vehicle inspection. It is the intention that the second approved testing station at Sunnybank Service Station will charge the same fee for the vehicle compliance test. Vehicle compliance test fees are payable to the testing station chosen by applicants therefore the costs are shows as an additional element. Vehicles under 3 years old require one compliance test per year (£60). Vehicles over 3 years old require two vehicle compliance tests (£120).

2.5 Members are advised that the vehicle compliance tests are conducted in accordance with the Councils Vehicle Testing manual which includes a full MOT inspection in accordance with the Ministry of transport inspection manual. The inspection of Hackney Carriage vehicles also includes their taxi meter being

tested over a fixed distance to determine the accuracy of the meter and other non-standard MOT checks being carried out.

3.0 Licensing Income and Expenditure: -

- 3.1 The total cost of the Taxi Licensing Service for the financial year 2022/23 was £372,000 and the total income received by the service was £327,000. This resulted in an under recovery of costs to the value of £45,000. The licensing service continue to work with the finance department to develop a full cost recovery model.
- 3.2 In addition, the cost of operating the service will increase in 2023/24 due to inflation therefore Council fees and charges need to be increased.
- 3.3 Each licensing authority considers their own fees and charges in line with the costs of operating their own service and the income received. It should be noted that Wolverhampton have significantly more vehicles licenses than Bury (in the region of 20,000) therefore a direct comparison cannot be made. Wolverhampton's current related fees are included in Appendix 1.

4.0 REPRESENTATIONS

- 4.1 There are currently 752 private hire vehicles, 33 hackney carriage vehicles and 28 Private Hire Operators licensed with this Authority. In accordance with the legislation the proposed fees were published in the Bury Times on 6 April 2023.
- 4.2 An objection to the increases in fees and charges was received by the Licensing Service on 3 May 2023 from the Private Hire Drivers Association who state the following:

There are several reasons why we are requesting a review of the current price structure for taxi licensing fees.

We understand that the cost of licensing is essential for the provision of regulatory resources and necessary services. However, we believe that charging significantly higher fees than Wolverhampton not justified and is making it difficult for our members and partners to continue operating the business

Firstly, we have conducted a thorough analysis of the fees charged by the bury licensing regulatory authority and discovered that our members and taxi trade partners are being charged significantly higher fees in comparison to Wolverhampton. This is causing financial strains on our members and partners while Wolverhampton license holder working in GM taking full advantage of low cost licensing structure

Secondly, we believe that a fair and reasonable charging structure is necessary for ensuring public safety while also enabling our members and partners to carry out their operations effectively. Therefore, we propose that

the current fee structure is reviewed to ensure that it aligns with Wolverhampton fees.

We believe that the regulatory authority should take into account the financial burden imposed by the licensing fees on our members and partners. A fair and reasonable fee structure will help businesses to thrive, ensuring that the public is provided with safe and reliable transportation services and we always encourage our members to stick to bury licensing

Overall full review of the current price structure for licensing fees is necessary to ensure that it is fair, reasonable, We hope that the bury licensing regulatory authority takes our proposal into consideration and takes appropriate measures to alleviate the financial strain experienced by our members and partners.

5.0 LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Members will recall that this matter was previously considered at the last meeting on the 8 June 2022. The Assistant Director of Operations Strategy and the Licensing Unit Manager outlined the report and the options available to the members contained within the report. Members considered the content of the report and resolved to defer the consideration of the report until the next meeting and Members requested that the following questions were answered:

5.2 Why have we put charges up by the amounts we have?

A council wide review of fees and charges took place across a number of service areas. Examples include, but are not limited to, replacement bins, Leisure Membership, Market Rents, Licensing administration costs. The review was undertaken by the Head of Commercial Services in conjunction with Finance and the proposed increases in fees and charges were considered by Full Council in February 2023.

The review considered the levels of fees and charges across other Greater Manchester Authorities to ensure any proposed increases were in line. The Licensing Service has since collated the current (July 2023) fees and charges that relate to this report from other GM Licensing Authorities and attached at Appendix 1. Due to variations of how each Local Authority sets and structures their fees, a direct like for like comparison is not able to be achieved, but the attached shows the fees for Bury are broadly in line with other authorities.

The decision noted at Full Council in February 2023 was:

"At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, made a statement on the Budget for 2023/24. (i) It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor O'Brien that the recommendations contained in Minute CA.126 of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th February 2023 be approves and adopt the budget for 2023/24"

The review of all fees and charges for the financial year 2023/2024 ensured that any increase covered the cost of inflation. The increase in fees and charges ranged from 5% to 15%. The proposed increase covered in this report, namely, Hackney Carriage /Private Hire Driver licences and Private Hire Operator licences were set at a 10% increase and then rounded down. This increase is in line with inflation which in February 2023 was just over 10%.

5.3 What additional income will it bring in this year as a result of the new fees?

The Licensing Service have reviewed the Council's Database and have identified the number of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences and Private Hire Operators Licences that are due to expire between the 9 June 2023 and 31 March 2024.

If the above proposed fees and charges are approved and implemented on 20 July 2023, the total additional income that will be achieved from vehicle and private hire operator fees in 2023/24 will be £13,180.

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Licensing Service have conducted an EIA. The assessment concluded that the proposed Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators fee increase did not require any amendments to address equality impacts and therefore the Licensing Authority has fulfilled its duties under Equalities Act 2010. The Licensing Authority will continue to monitor the impact of policies on different groups to assess impact on any aspect of protected equality characteristics.

A copy of the EIA is attached in Appendix 2

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Members are requested to consider the objection from the Private Hire Drivers Association and to determine if the proposed fees are to be applied.

Key considerations

This is a Council Function that is delegated to the Licensing and Safety Committee by the Council's Constitution.

This paper is in the public domain.

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

The Licensing service undertakes its statutory duty to ensure that the residents and visitors to Bury are reassured that the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire trade is properly regulated, and safety is paramount.

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

The Licensing Service have conducted an EIA. The assessment concluded that the proposed Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators fee increase did not require any amendments to address equality impacts and therefore the Licensing Authority has fulfilled its duties under Equalities Act 2010.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals.	The Licensing and Safety Committee give consideration to the representation and determine accordingly.

Consultation:

The Licensing Service advertised in a local newspaper the proposed fees in line with Section 70(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Legal Implications:

Under the legislation the Council is required to determine representations. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

The costs of the Licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Members are advised that Licences are regarded as possessions within the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act everyone is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of one's possessions and so actions interfering with those possessions must be lawful, reasonable and proportionate. It is lawful to impose reasonable conditions as a way of protecting the safety of the travelling public, so long as it is not out of proportion. It is a balancing act between the public interest and the individual's rights.

Financial Implications:

The cost of the licensing function is funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Background papers:

Representation from the Private Hire Drivers Association

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
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EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
GM	Greater Manchester

APPENDIX 1: GREATER MANCHESTER FEE COMPARISON (Including Wolverhampton)

***** Please note that direct comparison of fees is not possible due to incomparable staffing levels, local authority costs, number of licenses etc which each individual Local Authority must take into account when determining their own local fee structures which, as required by legislation, must be via a cost neutral model *****

Authority	Vehicle Licence fees	Operator Licence fees
Bury (Proposed)	Proposed Fees Vehicles under 3 years old - £260 (£200.00 plus *£60.00) Vehicles over 3 years old - £320 (£200.00plus *£120.00) *Bury have two vehicle testing stations. Bradley Fold (Council) and Sunnybank Service Station (Independent). Vehicle compliance test fees are payable to the testing station chosen by applicants therefore the costs are shows as an additional element. Vehicles under 3 years old require one compliance test per year (£60). Vehicles over 3 years old require two vehicle compliance tests (£120).	Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (1 Year) £315.00 1-2 vehicles (5 Year) £1540.00 3 or more vehicles (1 Year) £450.00 3 or more vehicles (5 Year) £2250.00
Bolton	Hackney Carriage first Grant - £217 Hackney Carriage Renewal - £213 Private hire Vehicle first grant - £165 Private Hire vehicle Renewal - £163	1 Vehicle £307 2-5 Vehicles £493 6-10 vehicles £493 11-15 Vehicles £584 16-50 vehicles £584 Over 50 vehicles £1416
Manchester	Hackney Carriage These fees do not include the cost of vehicle test and any plates, stickers, other consumables or notice fees. Renewal: £302 Vehicle test fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charged in addition to the above application fees: Vehicle <3 yrs old: One test/year = £60 	New or renewal application or additional base: 5 year licence £2,790

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle 3-8 yrs old: Two tests/year = £120 • Vehicle >8 yrs old: Three tests/year = £180 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Private Hire Vehicle • New application: £148 excluding test fee • Renewal: £144 <u>Excluding</u> test fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Private hire Vehicle Test fees • Vehicle <3 yrs old: One test/year = £60 • Vehicle 3-8 yrs old: Two tests/year = £120 • Vehicle >8 yrs old: Three tests/year = £180 		
Oldham	<p>Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence New / Renewal including one vehicle test £204 Including two vehicle tests £254 Including three vehicle tests£304</p> <p>Private Hire Vehicle Licence New / Renewal Including one vehicle test £244 Including two vehicle tests £294 Including three vehicle tests£344</p>	<p>Annual Licence</p> <p>1 Vehicle - £223 2-10 Vehicles £396 11-50 vehicles £816 51-99 Vehicles £1128 100-199 Vehicles £1275 200 – 299 Vehicles £1524 300 – 399 Vehicles £1807 400 + Vehicles £2101</p>	<p>5 Year Licence</p> <p>£572 £1433 £3535 £5093 £5829 £7075 £8492 £9965</p>
Rochdale	Annual fee: £339	<p>Annual Licence</p> <p>1 vehicle: £208 2-10 vehicles: £396 11-20 vehicles: £556 21-30 vehicles: £713 31-40 vehicles: £872 41-50 vehicles: £1,028 51-60 vehicles: £1,184 61-70 vehicles: £1,340 71 or more vehicles: £1,495</p>	<p>5 Year Licence</p> <p>£1,042 for 5 years £1,980 for 5 years £2,781 for 5 years £3,561 for 5 years £4,356 for 5 years £5,138 for 5 years £5,919 for 5 years £6,700 for 5 years £7,478 for 5 years</p>
Stockport	<p>Hackney Carriage £192</p> <p>Private Hire £183</p>	<p>Annual – Information not available</p> <p>5 Year – Information not available</p>	

Tameside	New Vehicle <3 years old £282.00 New Vehicle >3 years old £189.00 Renewal of Plate <3 years old £265.00 Renewal of plate >3 years old £178.00	1-2 Vehicles £503.00 3-10 Vehicles £570.00 11-30 Vehicles £838.00 31-49 Vehicles £1,136.00 50-69 Vehicles £1,363.00 70+ Vehicles £1,432.00																					
Trafford	Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicle £183 + Two 2 compliance tests (£106) = £289	<table> <tr> <th></th><th>Annual Licence</th><th>5 Year Licence</th></tr> <tr> <td>(1 vehicle)</td><td>£218</td><td>£800</td></tr> <tr> <td>(2- 5 vehicles)</td><td>£218</td><td>£800</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">£41 per extra vehicle i.e 2 vehicles = £841</td></tr> <tr> <td>(6-10 vehicles)</td><td>£495</td><td>£2,080</td></tr> <tr> <td>(11-29 vehicles)</td><td>£495</td><td>£2,080</td></tr> <tr> <td>(30+ vehicles)</td><td>£683</td><td>£2,846</td></tr> </table>		Annual Licence	5 Year Licence	(1 vehicle)	£218	£800	(2- 5 vehicles)	£218	£800	£41 per extra vehicle i.e 2 vehicles = £841			(6-10 vehicles)	£495	£2,080	(11-29 vehicles)	£495	£2,080	(30+ vehicles)	£683	£2,846
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Wigan	6 Month Licence 12 month Licence £278 £340 Cost of test is £62.00	1 vehicle £253.00 plus Annual Fee of £218.00 2 to 5 vehicles £290.00 plus Annual fee of £256.00 6 to 15 vehicles £343.00 plus Annual fee of £310.00 16 to 30 vehicles £467.00 plus Annual fee of £437.00 31 to 60 vehicles £546.00 plus Annual fee of £517.00 61 to 100 vehicles £782.00 plus Annual fee of £758.00 Operators with over 101+ vehicles -887.00 plus Annual fee of £864.00 The above licences are now issued for 5 years. To avoid the need for applicants to pay a large fee covering the full 5 year period, we have made arrangements for the cost to be spread across the term of the licence. This will therefore result in the annual fee shown below being payable each year for the licence to remain in force.																					

Wolverhampton	Hackney Carriage Vehicles			Annual Licence	5 Year Licence	
	1.1	1 year licence New / Renewal	Vehicle aged Under 10 years old	95	0-4 vehicles	New Licence £1000 Renewal £150 £500
	1.2		Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 16 years old	190		
	1.3	6 month licence Renewal	Vehicle aged Over 10 years old	N/A		
	1.4	Exceptional Condition Assessment of Hackney Carriage Vehicle aged 16 years and each subsequent 6 months		120	Over 4 vehicles	New Licence £1000 Renewal £750 £3000
	1.5	Application Fast Track New / Renewal		180		
	1.6 Private Hire Vehicles					
	1.7	1 year licence New / Renewal	Vehicle aged Under 10 years old	95		
	1.8		Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 12 years old	N/A		
	1.9	6 month licence Renewal	Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 12 years old	95		
	1.10	Application Fast Track New / Renewal		180		
	All Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles licensed by City of Wolverhampton Council must undertake an MOT from one of their approved testing station.					

Appendix 2. Equality Impact Assessment

EQUALITY ANALYSIS

This Equality Analysis considers the effect of Bury Council/ Bury CCG activity on different groups protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. This is to consider if there are any unintended consequences for some groups from key changes made by a public body and their contractor partners organisations and to consider if the activity will be fully effective for all protected groups. It involves using equality information and the results of engagement with protected groups and others, to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including any adverse impacts on those affected by the change under consideration.

For support with completing this Equality Analysis please contact corporate.core@bury.gov.uk / 0161 253 6592

SECTION 1 – RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 4	
1.1 Name of policy/ project/ decision	<p>Increase in hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence fees and private hire operator licence fees.</p> <p>In February 2023, Full Council approved increases in fees and charges for 2023/2024.</p> <p>An Equality Impact assessment was undertaken as part of the Councils budget report in February 2023: Budget Report – see Appendix 6</p> <p>Following an objection from the Private Hire Drivers Association to the increase in fees the matter is to be considered by the Licensing and Safety Committee on the 20 July 2023 and this EIA specially focuses on the increase in hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence fees and private hire operator licence fees.</p>
1.2 Lead for policy/ project/ decision	Ben Thomson / Michael Bridge
1.3 Committee/Board signing off policy/ project/ decision	Licensing and Safety Committee
1.4 Author of Equality Analysis	<p>Name: Michael Bridge</p> <p>Role: Licensing Unit Manager</p> <p>Contact details: 0161 253 5209</p>
1.5 Date EA completed	26/6/2023
1.6 Quality Assurance	<p>Name: Sam McVaigh</p> <p>Role: Director of People & Inclusion</p> <p>Contact details: s.mcvaigh@bury.gov.uk</p> <p>Comments:</p>
1.7 Date QA completed	04.07.23
1.8 Departmental recording	<p>Reference:</p> <p>Date:</p>

1.9 Next review date	Annual
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SECTION 2 – AIMS AND OUTCOMES OF POLICY / PROJECT	
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 5	
2.1 Detail of policy/ decision being sought	<p>The proposed 10% increase (rounded down) in hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence fees and private hire operator licence fees are shown below:</p> <p>Current Fees Vehicles under 3 years old £238.00 (£182.00 plus £56.00) Vehicles over 3 years old £294.00 (£182.00 plus £112.00) Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (One Year) £288.00 Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (One Year) £410.00 Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (5 Year) £1401.00 Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (5 Year) £1955.00</p> <p>Proposed Fees (10% increase rounded down) Vehicles under 3 years old £260 (£200.00 plus £60.00) (+£22) Vehicles over 3 years old £320 (£200.00 plus £120.00) (+£26) Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (One Year) £315.00 (+£27) Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (One Year) £450.00 (+£40) Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (5 Year) £1540.00 (+£139) Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (5 Year) £2250.00 (+£295)</p> <p>The vehicle test fee element of the respective vehicle licence fee (shown in brackets) is payable by the Licensing Section to Bradley Fold garage is currently £56.00. The licensing service have been notified that this fee will increase to £60.00 (+£4) per vehicle inspection. It is the intention that the second approved testing station at Sunnybank Service Station will charge the same fee for the vehicle compliance test.</p> <p>Bury have two vehicle testing stations. Bradley Fold (Council) and Sunnybank Service Station (Independent). Vehicle compliance test fees are payable to the testing station chosen by applicants therefore the costs are shown as an additional element. Vehicles under 3 years old require one compliance test per year (£60).</p>

	Vehicles over 3 years old require two vehicle compliance tests (£120).
2.2 What are the intended outcomes of this?	<p>As a licensing authority the Council should operate a cost neutral operating model with regarding to licensing fees, charges and functions. Currently there is a shortfall from income from licensing fees and charges and the purpose of the implementation of increased fees and charges is intended to help bridge the gap along with ongoing efficiencies.</p> <p>This review includes a proposed increase of 10% (rounded down) of the current charges, which are benchmarked to other Greater Manchester Authorities and show costs are broadly in line with other GM Authorities across the board, with Bury not the costliest. As Licensing Authority Service models are operated differently, direct comparisons must be taken with caution.</p> <p>The table at Appendix 1 details available information on relevant fees across GM.</p>

SECTION 3 – ESTABLISHING RELEVANCE TO EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Refer to Equality Analysis guidance pages 5-8 and 11

Please outline the relevance of the activity/ policy to the Public Sector Equality Duty

General Public Sector Equality Duties	Relevance (Yes/No)	Rationale behind relevance decision
3.1 To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by Equality Act 2010	Yes	<p>A change in fees and charges could impact some communities negatively, because of differential representation amongst the licensed vehicle / operator community. The process considered GM charges as a basis with proposed changes being reviewed by the Head of Public Protection to understand that demand and impact.</p> <p>It is important to emphasise that increases in fees and charges are being applied equitably across the board and individuals protected characteristics are not a criteria here.</p>
3.2 To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.	No	
3.3 To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	No	
3.4 Please outline the considerations taken, including any mitigations, to ensure activity is not detrimental to the Human Rights of any individual affected by the decision being sought.		

The proposal has no impact on individual rights and the increase in fees and charges are not detrimental to the human rights of an individual. The proposed increased fees followed a defined robust and fair legal process which allowed concerns to be raised with members of the Licensing & Safety Committee. The proposal supports the delivery of statutory licensing authority which respects the rights of families and for a private life. The proposal does not discriminate against the enjoyment of other human rights. The proposal supports the Council's statutory Licensing Authority role which ensures the dignity of all providers and users of the hackney carriage and private hire trade securing everyone's right for a private life.

SECTION 4 – EQUALITIES DATA			
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 8			
Protected characteristic	Outcome sought	Base data	Data gaps (to include in Section 8 log)
4.1 Age	No barriers to usage	Data available	Not all protected characteristic data is held for licence holders.
4.2 Disability	No barriers to usage	Limited data available with some gaps	
4.3 Gender	No barriers to usage	Data available	
4.4 Pregnancy or Maternity	No barriers to usage	Not held	Consideration to be given to future approach to data collection to allow monitoring/ review.
4.5 Race	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.6 Religion and belief	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.7 Sexual Orientation	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.8 Marriage or Civil Partnership	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.9 Gender Reassignment	No barriers to usage	Not held	Ongoing monitoring of live data including licence holders only.
4.10 Carers	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.11 Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.12 Armed Forces personnel including veterans	No barriers to usage	Not held	
4.13 Socio-economically vulnerable	No barriers to usage Increases in fees and charges could impact negatively on communities and groups that are socio-economically vulnerable. However licence fees are consistently applied as required by statutory licensing application process.	Not held	

SECTION 5 – STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENT		
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 8 and 9		
	Internal Stakeholders	External Stakeholders

5.1 Identify stakeholders	Licensing Service within the Operations Department	Residents/Applicants/licence holders of Hackney Carriage/Private hire vehicles and Private Hire Operator
5.2 Engagement undertaken	Finance and all services advised through wider fees and charges implementation. Executive member and Chair of Licensing & Safety Committee updated at Monthly Committee meetings.	Legislative requirements require proposed increase to be advertised in the Bury Times to allow the external stakeholders/trade to raise objections. If no objections has been received, the proposed fees would have been implemented on the 4/5/2023. Following an objection, the democratic process led the objection was referred to the Council's Licensing and Safety Committee on the 8/6/2023. Members decided to defer the implementation of the increase to the next meeting to allow further information to be obtained.
5.3 Outcomes of engagement	Measured and informed changes to fees and charges implemented and advertised (as required by legislation)	<p>An objection to the increases in fees and charges was received by the Licensing Service on 3 May 2023 from the Private Hire Drivers Association who state the following: There are several reasons why we are requesting a review of the current price structure for taxi licensing fees.</p> <p>We understand that the cost of licensing is essential for the provision of regulatory resources and necessary services. However, we believe that charging significantly higher fees than Wolverhampton not justified and is making it difficult for our members and partners to continue operating the business.</p> <p>Firstly, we have conducted a thorough analysis of the fees charged by the bury licensing regulatory authority and discovered that our members and taxi trade partners are being charged significantly higher fees in comparison to Wolverhampton. This is causing financial strains on our members and partners while Wolverhampton license holder working in GM taking full advantage of low-cost licensing structure.</p>

		<p>Secondly, we believe that a fair and reasonable charging structure is necessary for ensuring public safety while also enabling our members and partners to carry out their operations effectively. Therefore, we propose that the current fee structure is reviewed to ensure that it aligns with Wolverhampton fees.</p> <p>We believe that the regulatory authority should take into account the financial burden imposed by the licensing fees on our members and partners. A fair and reasonable fee structure will help businesses to thrive, ensuring that the public is provided with safe and reliable transportation services and we always encourage our members to stick to bury licensing.</p> <p>Overall full review of the current price structure for licensing fees is necessary to ensure that it is fair, reasonable, We hope that the bury licensing regulatory authority takes our proposal into consideration and takes appropriate measures to alleviate the financial strain experienced by our members and partners.</p>
5.4 Outstanding actions following engagement (include in Section 8 log)	Report to be considered by the Licensing and Safety Committee on the 20 July 2023.	<p>Any increases in fees and charges will be communicated to external stakeholders and the community by the Licensing service via licence holders, trade representatives and publication on the Councils website.</p> <p>The only protected characteristic of relevance to the specific objection received is socio-economic vulnerability this is considered further in the information below.</p>

SECTION 6 – CONCLUSION OF IMPACT

Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 9

Please outline whether the activity/ policy has a positive or negative effect on any groups of people with protected inclusion characteristics

Protected Characteristic	Positive/ Neutral Negative/	Impact (include reference to data/ engagement)
6.1 Age	Neutral	<p>Whilst the demographic make up of the community impacted by this change may include a higher proportion of people with certain protected characteristics, the 10% increase applies indiscriminately to all licence holders/applicants reflecting the operational costs of the Licensing service. As a statutory licensing authority the Council must ensure licence applications are received and processed without prejudice and deal with all application equally without any discrimination.</p>
6.2 Disability	Neutral	
6.3 Gender	Neutral	
6.4 Pregnancy or Maternity	Neutral	
6.5 Race	Neutral	
6.6 Religion and belief	Neutral	
6.7 Sexual Orientation	Neutral	
6.8 Marriage or Civil Partnership	Neutral	<p>The impact assessment will be reviewed during the process to consider any demographic adversely impacted or disadvantaged. As a statutory licensing authority we will monitor the impact to ensure that applications are processed with fairness, openness and transparency without any discrimination ensuing no one is disadvantaged due to a protected characteristic. We will ensure that the process is fair and equitable, and any relevant adjustments will be made if any disadvantage is identified. The licensing authority will further commit to ongoing accessible communication and engagement in terms with specific consideration to language and diversity and will utilise existing resources including the Business Engagement Officer to reach out and ensure no disadvantage to any protected characteristic group.</p>
6.9 Gender Reassignment	Neutral	
6.10 Carers	Neutral	
6.11 Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Neutral	
6.12 Armed Forces personnel including veterans	Neutral	
6.13 Socio-economically vulnerable	Neutral	<p>There is a socio-economic impact. The proposed fees benchmark comparably with other GM Authorities and the increase is proportionate in line with inflation and associated increases in the operational costs of the Licensing Authority. In mitigation both private hire and hackney carriages have the ability to consider increasing their own fees with hackney carriages being legally required to make an application which is considered by the licensing authority and licensing & safety committee as evidence in an increase in 2022-23.</p>
6.14 Overall impact - What will the likely overall effect of your activity be on equality, including consideration on intersectionality?		<p>There will be no detrimental equality impact.</p> <p>Any increase in the fees for Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators do not impact on aspects of protected equality characteristics with the exception of Socio-economically vulnerable which is mitigated by the ability for the trade to consider increasing their own chargeable fees to take into account increased operational costs as incurred by the Licensing Authority.</p> <p>The impact assessment will be monitored to evaluate the impact on affected demographics and/or those with special characteristics to ensure they are not adversely impacted or disadvantaged. The Licensing Authority will ensure that the process is fair and equitable, and any relevant adjustments will be considered if any disadvantage is identified.</p>

	<p>The proposed fees benchmark comparably with other GM Authorities and the increase is proportionate in line with inflation and associated increases in the operational costs of the Licensing Authority. In mitigation both private hire and hackney carriages have the ability to consider increasing their own fees with hackney carriages being legally required to make an application which is considered by the licensing authority and licensing & safety committee as evidence in an increase in 2022-23.</p>
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SECTION 7 – ACTION LOG			
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 10			
Action Identified	Lead	Due Date	Comments and Sign off (when complete)
7.1 Actions to address gaps identified in section 4			
<p>As a statutory licensing authority the Council must ensure licence applications are received and processed without prejudice and deal with all application equally without any discrimination</p> <p>The Licensing service will look at the data currently held and consider ways to better understand the demographics of the associated community.</p>	B.Thomson (BT)	5/7/2023	<p>Data Gaps - Not all protected characteristic data held for licence holders. Ongoing monitoring of live data including licence holders only. As a statutory licensing authority the Council must ensure licence applications are received and processed without prejudice and deal with all application equally without any discrimination</p> <p>As a statutory licensing authority the Council must ensure licence applications are received and processed without prejudice and deal with all application equally without any discrimination</p>
7.2 Actions to address gaps identified in section 5			
Ongoing engagement with the Trade and community undertaken.	B.Thomson (BT)	5/7/2023	Licensing fees and charges relate to regulatory compliance and enforcement. They further relate to the provision of a wide range of regulatory services through the processing of formal application requests within the different disciplines including Licensing. The application and processing of all public protection work has no discriminatory factors in the implementation of these fees and charges.
7.3 Mitigations to address negative impacts identified in section 6			
Not Applicable			
7.4 Opportunities to further inclusion (equality, diversity and human rights) including to advance opportunities and engagements across protected characteristics			
No current action required.			

SECTION 8 - REVIEW			
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 10			
Review Milestone	Lead	Due Date	Comments (and sign off when complete)
Review of impact on demand once implemented	Ben Thomson	31/12/2023	Ongoing impact via monthly savings target reviews through finance and exec directors.
Further proposed Increase by Council.	Michael Bridge	Q4 2023/24	If further objections are received in respect of increases in the future

Please make sure that every section of the Equality Analysis has been fully completed. The author of the EA should then seek Quality Assurance sign off and departmental recording.

SECTION 9 – QUALITY ASSURANCE		
Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page x		
Consideration	Yes/No	Rationale and details of further actions required
Have all section been completed fully?	Yes	
Has the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimization and other conducted prohibited by the PSED and Equalities Act been considered and acted upon?	Yes	
Has the duty to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not been considered and acted upon	Yes	
Has the duty to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, been consider and acted upon	Yes	
Has the action log fully detailed any required activity to address gaps in data, insight and/or engagement in relation to inclusion impact?	Yes	
Have clear and robust reviewing arrangements been set out?	Yes	
Are there any further comments to be made in relation to this EA	No	

APPENDIX 2.1: GREATER MANCHESTER FEE COMPARISON (Including Wolverhampton)

***** Please note that direct comparison of fees is not possible due to incomparable staffing levels, local authority costs, number of licenses etc which each individual Local Authority must take into account when determining their own local fee structures which, as required by legislation, must be via a cost neutral model *****

Authority	Vehicle Licence fees	Operator Licence fees
Bury (Proposed)	Proposed Fees Vehicles under 3 years old - £260 (£200.00 plus *£60.00) Vehicles over 3 years old - £320 (£200.00plus *£120.00) * Bury have two vehicle testing stations. Bradley Fold (Council) and Sunnybank Service Station (Independent). Vehicle compliance test fees are payable to the testing station chosen by applicants therefore the costs are shown as an additional element. Vehicles under 3 years old require one compliance test per year (£60). Vehicles over 3 years old require two vehicle compliance tests (£120).	Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (1 Year) £315.00 1-2 vehicles (5 Year) £1540.00 3 or more vehicles (1 Year) £450.00 3 or more vehicles (5 Year) £2250.00
Bolton	Hackney Carriage first Grant - £217 Hackney Carriage Renewal - £213 Private hire Vehicle first grant - £165 Private Hire vehicle Renewal - £163	1 Vehicle £307 2-5 Vehicles £493 6-10 vehicles £493 11-15 Vehicles £584 16-50 vehicles £584 Over 50 vehicles £1416
Manchester	Hackney Carriage	New or renewal application or additional base: 5 year licence £2,790

	<p>These fees do not include the cost of vehicle test and any plates, stickers, other consumables or notice fees.</p> <p>Renewal: £302</p> <p>Vehicle test fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charged in addition to the above application fees: Vehicle <3 yrs old: One test/year = £60 Vehicle 3-8 yrs old: Two tests/year = £120 Vehicle >8 yrs old: Three tests/year = £180 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Hire Vehicle New application: £148 excluding test fee Renewal: £144 <u>Excluding</u> test fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private hire Vehicle Test fees Vehicle <3 yrs old: One test/year = £60 Vehicle 3-8 yrs old: Two tests/year = £120 Vehicle >8 yrs old: Three tests/year = £180 																												
Oldham	<p>Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence New / Renewal</p> <p>including one vehicle test £204</p> <p>Including two vehicle tests £254</p> <p>Including three vehicle tests £304</p> <p>Private Hire Vehicle Licence New / Renewal</p> <p>Including one vehicle test £244</p> <p>Including two vehicle tests £294</p> <p>Including three vehicle tests £344</p>	<table> <tr> <th></th><th>Annual Licence</th><th>5 Year Licence</th></tr> <tr> <td>1 Vehicle -</td><td>£223</td><td>£572</td></tr> <tr> <td>2-10 Vehicles</td><td>£396</td><td>£1433</td></tr> <tr> <td>11-50 vehicles</td><td>£816</td><td>£3535</td></tr> <tr> <td>51-99 Vehicles</td><td>£1128</td><td>£5093</td></tr> <tr> <td>100-199 Vehicles</td><td>£1275</td><td>£5829</td></tr> <tr> <td>200 – 299 Vehicles</td><td>£1524</td><td>£7075</td></tr> <tr> <td>300 – 399 Vehicles</td><td>£1807</td><td>£8492</td></tr> <tr> <td>400 + Vehicles</td><td>£2101</td><td>£9965</td></tr> </table>		Annual Licence	5 Year Licence	1 Vehicle -	£223	£572	2-10 Vehicles	£396	£1433	11-50 vehicles	£816	£3535	51-99 Vehicles	£1128	£5093	100-199 Vehicles	£1275	£5829	200 – 299 Vehicles	£1524	£7075	300 – 399 Vehicles	£1807	£8492	400 + Vehicles	£2101	£9965
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Rochdale	Annual fee: £339	<table> <tr> <th></th><th>Annual Licence</th><th>5 Year Licence</th></tr> <tr> <td>1 vehicle:</td><td>£208</td><td>£1,042 for 5 years</td></tr> </table>		Annual Licence	5 Year Licence	1 vehicle:	£208	£1,042 for 5 years																					
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Stockport	Hackney Carriage £192 Private Hire £183	Annual – Information not available 5 Year – Information not available
Tameside	New Vehicle <3 years old £282.00 New Vehicle >3 years old £189.00 Renewal of Plate <3 years old £265.00 Renewal of plate >3 years old £178.00	1-2 Vehicles £503.00 3-10 Vehicles £570.00 11-30 Vehicles £838.00 31-49 Vehicles £1,136.00 50-69 Vehicles £1,363.00 70+ Vehicles £1,432.00
Trafford	Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicle £183 + Two 2 compliance tests (£106) = £289	Annual Licence 5 Year Licence (1 vehicle) £218 £800 (2- 5 vehicles) £218 £800 £41 per extra vehicle i.e. 2 vehicles = £841 (6-10 vehicles) £495 £2,080 (11-29 vehicles) £495 £2,080 (30+ vehicles) £683 £2,846
Wigan	6 Month Licence 12 month Licence £278 £340 Cost of test is £62.00	1 vehicle £253.00 plus Annual Fee of £218.00 2 to 5 vehicles £290.00 plus Annual fee of £256.00 6 to 15 vehicles £343.00 plus Annual fee of £310.00 16 to 30 vehicles £467.00 plus Annual fee of £437.00 31 to 60 vehicles £546.00 plus Annual fee of £517.00 61 to 100 vehicles £782.00 plus Annual fee of £758.00

			Operators with over 101+ vehicles -887.00 plus Annual fee of £864.00 The above licences are now issued for 5 years. To avoid the need for applicants to pay a large fee covering the full 5 year period, we have made arrangements for the cost to be spread across the term of the licence. This will therefore result in the annual fee shown below being payable each year for the licence to remain in force.																																																						
Wolverhampton	<table><tr><th colspan="4">Hackney Carriage Vehicles</th></tr><tr><td>1.1</td><td rowspan="2">1 year licence New / Renewal</td><td>Vehicle aged Under 10 years old</td><td>95</td></tr><tr><td>1.2</td><td>Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 16 years old</td><td>190</td></tr><tr><td>1.3</td><td>6 month licence Renewal</td><td>Vehicle aged Over 10 years old</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>1.4</td><td colspan="2">Exceptional Condition Assessment of Hackney Carriage Vehicle aged 16 years and each subsequent 6 months</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>1.5</td><td colspan="2">Application Fast Track New / Renewal</td><td>180</td></tr><tr><th colspan="4">1.6 Private Hire Vehicles</th></tr><tr><td>1.7</td><td rowspan="2">1 year licence New / Renewal</td><td>Vehicle aged Under 10 years old</td><td>95</td></tr><tr><td>1.8</td><td>Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 12 years old</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>1.9</td><td>6 month licence Renewal</td><td>Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 12 years old</td><td>95</td></tr><tr><td>1.10</td><td colspan="2">Application Fast Track New / Renewal</td><td>180</td></tr></table> <p>All Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles licensed by City of Wolverhampton Council must undertake an MOT from one of their approved testing station.</p>	Hackney Carriage Vehicles				1.1	1 year licence New / Renewal	Vehicle aged Under 10 years old	95	1.2	Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 16 years old	190	1.3	6 month licence Renewal	Vehicle aged Over 10 years old	N/A	1.4	Exceptional Condition Assessment of Hackney Carriage Vehicle aged 16 years and each subsequent 6 months		120	1.5	Application Fast Track New / Renewal		180	1.6 Private Hire Vehicles				1.7	1 year licence New / Renewal	Vehicle aged Under 10 years old	95	1.8	Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 12 years old	N/A	1.9	6 month licence Renewal	Vehicle aged Over 10 but under 12 years old	95	1.10	Application Fast Track New / Renewal		180	<table><tr><td></td><td>Annual Licence</td><td>5 Year Licence</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">0-4 vehicles</td><td>New Licence</td><td>£1000</td></tr><tr><td>Renewal</td><td>£150 £500</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Over 4 vehicles</td><td>New Licence</td><td>£1000</td></tr><tr><td>Renewal</td><td>£750 £3000</td></tr></table>		Annual Licence	5 Year Licence	0-4 vehicles	New Licence	£1000	Renewal	£150 £500	Over 4 vehicles	New Licence	£1000	Renewal	£750 £3000
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