

Committee: Licensing & Environmental Health

Date:

Title: Driver Training Provider Fee Review

Tuesday 17 June
2025

Report Author: Jamie Livermore, Licensing & Compliance
Manager, 01799 510326

Item for decision:
Yes

Summary

1.1. This report is to seek Members approval for an increase in fees charged by the Council's approved driver training provider for courses required to be undertaken as part of the application grant and renewal process of a licensed driver.

1.2. Members will also be advised of the general reporting statistics relating to the Council's approved driver training provider from the past 12 months. This is for information purposes only.

Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that Members approve the new fees chargeable by the Council's approved driver training provider.

Financial Implications

3.1. Fees for the driver training course are payable by the applicant directly to the Council's approved driver training provider and so is separate to the licence fee charged by the Council. Therefore, any increase would not directly affect the cost of the Council's Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver licence.

Background Papers

4.1. None

Impact

5.1.

Communication/Consultation	The taxi and private hire trade are always notified of decisions which affect their industry
Community Safety	The fundamental purpose of the private hire vehicle licensing regime is to establish a position where passengers can use these vehicles with a high degree of confidence about their safety. This principle is at the heart of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire

	<p>Vehicle Standards. Licensing Authorities are required to have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults</p>
Equalities	<p>Under the general equality duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.</p> <p>The protected grounds covered by the equality duty are: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. The equality duty also covers marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination.</p> <p>The law requires that this duty to have due regard be demonstrated in decision making processes. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the keyways in which public authorities can demonstrate that they have had due regard to the aims of the equality duty.</p> <p>Licensing Policies and Licensing decisions must all have regard to the Council's Equalities duties.</p>
Health and Safety	<p>The fundamental purpose of the private hire and hackney carriage licensing regime is to establish a position where passengers can use these vehicles with a high degree of confidence about their safety. This principle is at the heart of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards. Licensing Authorities are required to have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults</p>

Human Rights/Legal Implications	Conditions and charges may be challenged in the High Court (Judicial Review) or by complaint to the Local Auditor. It is therefore important that the process the Council follows is fair, open, and transparent
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	The proposed change can be managed from within the current resource.

Situation

6.1. It has been a requirement for applicants and existing holders of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licences to undergo a Council approved training course since June 2021. Green Penny Ltd were selected as the approved provider for the courses.

6.2. The existing pricing structure charged by Green Penny for the courses was last revised on the 8 December 2022. They have asked for approval to increase the fees effective from 1 July 2025. The existing fees are shown alongside the proposed fees below.

Course	Current fee	Proposed fee
Taxi & Private Hire course (classroom & online)	£130 inc. VAT	£140 inc. VAT (£10 increase)
Test/Retest	£19.50 inc. VAT	£21.50 inc. VAT (£2 increase)
Home to School Driver Course	£115 inc. VAT	£124 inc. VAT (£9 increase)
Refresher Course	£60 inc. VAT	£70 inc. VAT

		(£10 increase)
--	--	----------------

6.3. Members may wish to note the statistics shown in the tables below covering the period of 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The first table shows the pass rates across all courses, and the second table shows the feedback from the driver satisfaction survey.

Pass rates	
Overall Pass Rate (based on monthly averages)	68.61%
Pass Rate % 1st attempt (based on monthly averages)	77.24%
Pass Rate % 2nd attempt (based on monthly averages)	44.51%
Pass Rate % 3rd attempt (based on monthly averages)	62.08%

Driver satisfaction	
Ease of booking place on the course	100%
The content of the course	98.80%
The venue	100%
The test	100%
Overall satisfaction	99.70%