

Committee:	Licensing & Environmental Health	Date:	
Title:	Proposed 2026/27 Licence Fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators		20 January 2025
Report	Jamie Livermore, Licensing & Compliance	Item for decision:	
Author:	Manager, 01799 510326		Yes

Summary

1.1. This report informs Members on the results of the statutory public consultation on the proposed variation to Licence fees relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators to take effect from 1 April 2026.

Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that the Committee consider the consultation responses and decide to approve or not approve the proposed fees for referral to Full Council for adoption.

Financial Implications

3.1. The Local Authority is required to review its fees and charges as part of its annual budget setting process. In accordance with both legislation and guidance, it is appropriate for fees and charges associated with the Licensing regime to be set as cost-recoverable.

Background Papers

4.1.

A – [Proposed 2026/27 Licence Fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators report of 2 October 2025](#) and [Appendix A](#)

B – Local Government Association Guidance on locally set Licence fees (Dec 2023) [LGA guidance on locally set licensing fees | Local Government Association](#)

C – S70 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendices

5.1

1 – Consultation Responses

Impact

6.1.

Communication/Consultation	Statute requires notice of proposed changes to be published in at least one local newspaper for a period of at least 28 days. The consultation ran from Thursday 6 November 2025 to Thursday 4 December 2025.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	Any changes in fees must be communicated to all existing licence holders, and consultation on any proposed changes will be conducted with interested parties and the wider public to ensure there is an opportunity to contribute to any such decision.
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The Local Authority is permitted to charge a reasonable fee for the grant of a licence with the view to recovering the costs of the

	issue, administration and supervision of such licences.
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

7.1. This report outlines the steps taken since the previous Committee meeting of the 2 October 2025, and Members may wish to refer to the licence fee report which is attached as **Background Paper A**.

7.2. A public consultation ran for a period of 28 days – Thursday 6 November 2025 to Thursday 4 December 2025 - in line with statutory requirements and was advertised in the Dunmow Broadcast and Saffron Walden Reporter, the Council's website and through email correspondence to all existing licence holders.

7.3. A total of 18 responses were received to the proposed fees, four in support and 14 in objection. All respondents except for two declared being current UDC licensed drivers. **Appendix 1** illustrates the responses and any associated comments.

Licensing Officers would advise Members that five respondents used the opportunity to report that they no longer work as licensed drivers so were not specifically objecting to the fees, and one respondent appeared to ask a question rather than make a comment for or against. Licensing Officers have now contacted each of those concerned and updated records in accordance with procedure.

7.4. A consultation meeting was offered to the Trade as per the Licensing Authority's standard practice, where Licensing, Legal and Finance Officers would be available to discuss any questions relating to the proposals. One respondent declared

interest, but following email correspondence with Licensing Officers during the intervening time, questions were addressed, and the respondent no longer had interest in attending the meeting. They chose not to submit a separate response to the consultation. As a result, no meeting took place. Licensing Officers intend to offer the opportunity again in any relevant future years.

7.5. Members are advised to refer to **Background Paper B and C** for further information and clarification on Licence fee setting from the Local Government Association and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 respectively.