

Responses received for Public Consultation for Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges

Do you object to the proposed charges?

No – 16 (45%)

Yes – 20 (55%)

Reasons for those that answered Yes, objecting to changes:

- There seems to be no mechanism for withholding or removing a licence when the company is incompetent. Current standards are abysmal. They deteriorated about three years ago.
- Fees have to increase, I find it ridiculous that the City is increasing the Council tax but that taxis will end up pay less !!
- Keep costs for public down
- Increased prices for worse services. Based on all my recent experience, the regulated taxi companies seem to only employ people who have a minimal grasp of the language, and who are entirely reliant on an app to navigate. This is not safe, and has resulted in longer journeys (because they're following apps that take them to the wrong location or attempt an inviable route) and unsafe journeys because their eyes are only on the road 50% of the time.
- Prices should remain as before, already too expensive for me.
- I've been a Cambridge taxi driver for seven years, and the situation has become impossible. We are losing customers, living costs are rising, and Uber and out-of-area drivers are taking most of our work. We no longer feel safe or secure in our trade. The council should reduce or remove charges for Cambridge taxi drivers, as current policies are making it difficult for us to earn a reasonable living
- Cost of living is going up everyday but wages aren't
- Because increases need to be fair
- seems too cheap for someone to apply to become a taxi driver just so they can drive through bus gates and in bus lanes.
- "There is no logical reason for lowering so many charges for taxi drivers. Services are being cut back for residents on all fronts but for some reason taxi drivers are being awarded discounts instead of reflecting inflation. The council is certainly not providing services more efficiently with its four day week rubbish so there is no discount to pass on. Anybody on the council that has family connections in the taxi trade should not be allowed to vote on issues like this."

Appendix B

- I object to the use of zero emission option for the cars. There is no such thing as zero emission because electricity is generated by burning natural gas for my home, therefore all cars use electricity just take away from other needs. Electric vehicle and all cars should pay the same price, the proposal is discriminatory.
- There are significant increases in charges to private hire vehicle operators. This is not fair considering the increased cost of living and harsher business environment.
- We need to drive down costs for the public not increase them. If the fee goes up so will the price of taking taxi
- "Taxis make up a large number of the users of roads in the Cambridge area. They also make up a large number of the offending pavement parkers, double yellow line parkers, red light runners and the users of infrastructure that is not intended for them. From my observations anyway. Active travel should seek to promote the use of active travel as opposed to making cheaper taxi provision that damages the infrastructure it uses that others then cannot use because of profit. Particularly private hire. I would favour making licencing more expensive, shrinking taxi ranks in favour of greater provision of public infrastructure that does not feel entitled to take and damage the quality of space. This would reduce the burden on traffic capacity in the city of Cambridge."
- I don't see why so many of the charges should be reduced, when we should be favouring public transport (taking 60+ passengers in one vehicle) over taxis (typically taking one). It is sensible that Zero Emission Vehicles could be reduced or held steady, but we should be encouraging the adoption of these, as well as the general reduction in use of individual transport such as taxis.
- Taxis will just increase charges which are far too high anyway.
- All licensing fees should be increased significantly. There are far too many taxis in Cambridge, and far too many incidences of bad taxi behaviour - illegal pavement parking, driving through taxi gates without a passenger and so on. Taxis are being used as a loophole to circumvent driving restrictions. Higher fees are required to combat this.
- Too many separate fees, and far too high. Flat costs to start up prevent competition and new drivers from entry. It's not clear where these fees go or why they're charged, as drivers are notoriously aggressive so it's not like it's ensuring that they're safe and skilled. Incentivizing longer term renewals is good in theory, but again the high up-front cost is counterproductive.
- Current Drivers should have a much bigger reduction. The Market is flooded with Drivers, therefore make it harder for more driver to come by increase their price by £100 and Reduce current Drivers by £100.