

Have your say on taxi tariffs and get the chance to win a £50 high street voucher of your choice

People across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being encouraged to have their say on how hackney carriage taxi pricing is set, with those taking part in the consultation being offered the opportunity to be entered into a draw to win a £50 high street shopping voucher to spend in a store of their choice.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have commissioned independent researchers Insight Oxford to gauge the level of support, among taxi users, for potential changes to the way prices are set for journeys made by hackney carriage.

Hackney carriages are those taxis that can be hailed from the street or taken from taxi ranks, unlike private hire taxis that are pre-booked in advance or in person from a taxi office.

The findings of the consultation will directly inform decisions made by the two councils about the future of hackney carriage tariffs; whether to retain the current systems each district uses, make minor alterations or adopt new systems.

In the Vale of White Horse hackney carriages currently operate under a council set tariff meaning that a passenger cannot be charged more than a set maximum fee per 1/10 mile. In South Oxfordshire there is no council set tariff and it is up to individual taxi operators to set their own rates.

The consultation takes place between Monday 15 April and Tuesday 28 April and is open to all members of the public.

Taxi drivers and operators across the two districts will be contacted directly and asked to complete a separate questionnaire which goes into more detail about the respective charging set up that they currently use.

People wishing to complete the survey for members of the public, and to be in with a chance of winning a £50 high street shopping voucher of your choice, should go to either www.southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay, www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay, or scan the following QR code:



If you are unable to complete the online survey please contact Insight Oxford on 01865 596771 for a paper copy or email louise.wheeler@insightoxford.co.uk

The prize draw to win £50 worth of high street shopping vouchers will take place no later than Tuesday 18 June 2013.

Cllr Ann Ducker, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said:
“Taxis play a significant role across both districts, providing an essential source of transport for many thousands of residents and visitors each year. It is therefore very important that people have their say on how they think journey charges should be set in the future.”

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said:
“This consultation is very much about finding a system of charging for hackney carriage journeys that is suitable for both the users and the taxi operators. This is an important decision which will set how charges are set for the foreseeable future, so we hope as many people as possible will have their say.”