

CONSULTATION RESULTS - SUMMARY

In general terms, do you support the introduction of a penalty point scheme for those who hold hackney carriage and private hire licences issued by the Council?			
YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
2	12	0	1
COMMENTS – (FROM THOSE SAYING YES) <p>I support the proposal on penalty points. The only area that I feel perhaps warrants discussion is the appeal process on being awarded points. I wonder whether the chair or other member of the licensing committee should be involved in the appeal process.</p>			
COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING NO) <p>Just another reason for the Council to screw hardworking people</p> <p>We are professional drivers who know how to be civil otherwise the Council would not give us a driver badge.</p> <p>If you treat people like children, they act like children. No one wins and another blow struck against common sense.</p> <p>I am against the whole points system, I feel it is not required, especially when there's "out of town" private hire and hackney carriages work around Bromsgrove that these points cannot apply to if not Bromsgrove plated and licensed. Summing up – I'm against the points system.</p> <p>Do not agree with it.</p> <p>Support – 1, 3 to 7, 9, 10, 12 – 32. Not supporting 2 & 11.</p> <p>I reject all this as we already have a handbook, what's next a naughty step outside Iceland. More attention should be paid by licensing to control unlicensed out of town drivers coming into Bromsgrove before there is a serious incident and if there is, I will be the first to the papers. The Council has been told and not acted on it.</p> <p>The situation some drivers have found themselves placed in would leave them exposed to receiving penalty points through being placed in an unjust system if this action was implemented.</p> <p>The unreasonable and unnecessary age restriction on vehicles are already forcing drivers out of their jobs. The closure of the Dog and Pheasant and changes to other establishments along with other things has seen a massive drop in customers and drivers are struggling. The Council should concentrate on helping not making things harder. The system would be impossible to implement as there are not enough licensing officers to police it and many of the things would rely on hearsay. Drivers and members of the public could make false allegations.</p>			

Are there any offences or other acts of non-compliance that are contained within the draft penalty point scheme that you think the Council should not include within any scheme they adopt?

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
6	1	3	5

COMMENTS – (FROM THOSE SAYING YES)

Fire extinguisher (7) – if my car catches fire my first aim it to get me and my passengers to safety and dial 999.

First Aid Kit (8) – Not medically qualified to do 1st Aid.

Charging More (14) – Certain passengers change destination while in the car or stop at a shop and assume the fare should be the same.

Over ranking (2) – Day time, 7 spaces at Iceland, 4 at train station and over 100 drivers on the road. Council need to make more rank spaces. Strand rank is useless.

Clause 22 – What if they are full? It can happen. I assume, as far as the main town stand is concerned, “full” is deemed to be as far as the camera. Another reason why the Council should give serious consideration to limiting the number of licences it issues.

Clause 6 – tinted windows! Another “hot potato” What constitutes an acceptable tint and what doesn’t? Some drivers have had dark tinted windows passed as acceptable. Some drivers (with exact same level of tint) have been refused. More and more cars are now being mass-produced with dark tinted windows and to purchase a legal vehicle only to be refused by Bromsgrove District Council is appalling.

Clause 8 – I would estimate that 3 points be “awarded” to 95% of drivers with immediate effect! Unless Bromsgrove District Council has changed its way of thinking within the last 12 months without telling us drivers my understanding is that drivers are NOT required to carry first aid kits. Or is the Council unaware of its own existing rulings.

Clause 13 – The main Bromsgrove stand is adjacent to the town public conveniences. So what do drivers do when a comfort break is needed? They cannot take the cars in with them!

Clause 25 – How are drivers expected to enforce this? They can ask the alien vehicle owner to remove their vehicle from the stand but if they refuse, what then? Drivers run taxis not tow trucks.

(13) – Sometimes a driver needs to go to the bathroom.

This is not school or college! This is peoples livelihoods which you want to mess around.

The whole concept.

(1) - What constitute civil and orderly?
(2) – As the ranks are often filled with public vehicles taxis are forced to park behind them. Also what if you are trying to collect a booked fare?
(5/6) – what is unacceptable?
(8) – Drivers are not obligated to carry a first aid kit
(10) – What is reasonable?
(13) – What is a driver goes to the toilet or gets out to have a cigarette or talk to another driver?
(15) – what is reasonable?
(16) – hand in to who?
(20) – what is reasonable?
(22) – The Council already have copies of insurance and most people don't carry them around.
(25) – How can a driver prevent this?

COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING NO)

Does the penalty scheme you're proposing apply to non-Bromsgrove drivers.

COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING DON'T KNOW OR NOT RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION DIRECTLY)

Do not agree with it.

Are there any other offences or acts of non-compliance that are not contained in the draft scheme you think the Council should include within any penalty point scheme they adopt?

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
2	6	2	5

COMMENTS – (FROM THOSE SAYING YES)

Smoking (30 and 31) – smoking is banned in all work places and public places. A licensing vehicle is a place of work and public for the general public. Smoking should be banned in all licensed vehicles.

Private hire cars with non-Bromsgrove hackney carriage plates displaying taxi signs and touting on the ranks.

COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING NO)

The whole thing is ridiculous.

COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING DON'T KNOW OR NOT RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION DIRECTLY)

Do not agree with it.

Do you think the number of points that the Council proposes to issue in respect of each offences or act of non-compliance identified in the penalty point scheme are all set at the appropriate level?

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
1	8	3	3

COMMENTS – (FROM THOSE SAYING YES)

COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING NO)

DVLA is enough to give penalty points. The Council wants to play prosecutor, which they are clearly not.

Zero points system

Do not agree with it.

For the reasons already given

Suggest four points instead of three points for:

27 – Obstructing an authorised officer or constable

28 – Failing to comply with a requirement properly made by an authorised officer or constable.

30 – Allowing smoking in a licensed vehicle

31 – Smoking in a licensed vehicle

32 – Parking a vehicle in an illegal or dangerous position

With regards to item 18 – failing to keep appropriate records of bookings – the Parish Council would suggest 6 points instead of 4 to both the driver and the operator.

All points are 3 or 4 - why are some not lower or even higher? Suggested changes:

- a. #2 - 2 points
- b. #6 - 2 points
- c. #9 - 5 points
- d. #20 - 5 points
- e. #25 - 2 points
- f. #27 - 5 points
- g. #28 - 4 points
- h. #29 - 1 points
- i. #31 - 4 points

The Council proposes to have those who receive 12 or more penalty points in a two year period, referred to a Licensing Sub-Committee. Do you think that this threshold is appropriate?

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
1	8	1	5

COMMENTS – (FROM THOSE SAYING YES)

COMMENTS (FROM THOSE SAYING NO)

Min 20.

There are factors beyond our control – dirty roads = dirty cars. Drunk customer = inside car dirty due to spillage.

This is not right, there should be no penalty points!!!

Zero

Against the points system full stop.

I absolutely disagree with any sort of penalty system. The current discipline rules are sufficient. There are real issues currently which are very serious parking safety, I feel the Council will use their penalty system to their own advantage and penalise drivers who are doing their job. As a Council you have done nothing for drivers in this town except chase us round the town when you know there are insufficient spaces for hackney carriages to ply their trade. I would encourage our drivers not to help or co-operate with the Council at all.

Do not agree with it.

As before

Other comments and observations:

Bad idea, cop out.

When I have looked at the consultation and the draft I think this sounds very prejudice. The reason for saying this is because you have a lot of drivers from different ethnic backgrounds applying it feels with this system the Council is giving themselves too much power to do whatever they like. No other Council have introduced this. So to conclude this draft of scheme sounds very biased and is unacceptable. We put long hours to make a living and instead the Council introducing these kind why don't you encourage the community that we work there for the people to keep them safe and sound.

There are too many hackney licences issued for the amount of work / ranks. Penalising drivers for this with a point system is unfair and shows a lack of understanding and unrealism by those trying to introduce aforesaid point system.

Council to monitor ranks on Worcester Road at night, particularly at weekends and regularly.

Council to issue warning leaflets to taxi drivers for the people (non-taxis) who park on the ranks during taxi operating hours on the ranks. Council to provide stickers, highlight on website and all other awareness campaigns that BDC will not tolerate any racial, religious hatred or violence towards taxi drivers and offenders will be prosecuted etc.

Having been a "hackney carriage" driver for a number of years I would like to point out observations I have made over recent years which are progressively leading to problems within the Bromsgrove Community also the taxi drivers. Please find attached a list of my observations.

The Council seem determined to destroy the taxi trade in Bromsgrove. This is because they gave out too many licences. As for this consultation, it is a joke as you will do as you please anyway. You have no idea about the problems drivers face in Bromsgrove but you will see the effects as drivers quit and vehicles decrease especially larger vehicles and wheelchair accessible ones.

Section 7 refers to "There is a right of appeal to the Licensing and Support Services Manager at Worcestershire Regulatory Services against any points that are issued". Should the Licensing sub-committee not deal with appeals or a separate members group rather than a County officer?

Section 13 is not clear. Does this mean that if the sub-committee revokes any points they will be considered spent?

Section 16 - What other breaches will be considered. These should be listed

Item 9 should read "or" not "of"