

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2026

Hackney Carriage Rank Review – Information Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor K. Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Report Author	Hazel Powell – Principal Licensing Officer Contact email: Hazel.Powell@worcestershire.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01562 738 054
Wards Affected	Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- i. **Note the contents of the report.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 16 March 2016 the Licensing Committee requested officers to bring back an information report on the locations and use of the current Taxi Rank provisions within Bromsgrove town centre.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 There are four official taxi ranks within Bromsgrove Town Centre –
 1. Crown Close (Market Street Service Road) near to the bus station.
 2. High Street outside the Golden Cross Hotel and Public House.
 3. Worcester Road, junction of George Street.
 4. Worcester Road, junction of Station Street, near to Bar 61.

A site map of the locations is given as **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Crown Close (Market Street Service Road)

The rank in Crown Close is located close to the bus station within the town centre. The rank has five taxi spaces and is in full time operation, Monday to Sunday.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2026

- 3.3 The rank in Crown Close was last reviewed in 2024. This rank had been subject to some alterations due to changes in road layout carried out by the County Council's Highway Department. The rank had originally provided five taxi spaces but due to the change in road layout one taxi space was lost. The review in 2024 re-designated a taxi space in this area bringing the overall designated taxi spaces back up to five. The current rank consists of four spaces along the south-west of the street and one on the south-east of the street.
- 3.4 Officers confirm that the rank on Crown Close is well used throughout the day being in close proximity to the bus station and Asda supermarket. Licensing Officers consider there is sufficient space for waiting and are not aware of any particular problems in this area, such as "over-ranking". Officers also consider that there is insufficient space to increase the number of available taxi spaces due to the road layout however decisions on road space and safety would ultimately be a consideration for the County Council's Highway Department.
- 3.5 **High Street**
The rank in High Street is located outside the Golden Cross Hotel. The Order permitting the current rank was authorised in 2009. The rank has five taxi spaces, two of the spaces are available 24 hours a day, three spaces are available between 19:00 to 07:00 daily.
- 3.6 Officers consider this rank to be moderately well used both in the day and in the evenings however it is believed that the rank is less used in the evening than in previous years due to the retraction in the night time economy.
- 3.7 **Worcester Road (junction with George Street)**
This rank on Worcester Road is located close to the junction with George Street. The Order permitting the current rank was authorised in 2014. The rank has six taxi spaces for use between the hours of 23:00 to 05:00.
- 3.8 Officers consider that this rank is less well used than the ranks available within Crown Close and High Street. Historically this rank was popular in the evenings as part of the night time economy but as venues have closed, and the night time economy within the town centre has shrunk, there is now less demand from members of the public for this rank.
- 3.9 **Worcester Road (junction with Station Street)**
This rank in Worcester Road is located on the corner of Worcester Road and Station Street and is near to Bar 61. The Order permitting the current rank was authorised in 2010. The rank has four taxi spaces for use between the hours of 19:00 to 07:00 daily.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2026

- 3.10 Officers consider this, like the other rank on Worcester Road, to be one that has previously been well used in the evenings however due to the decreased night time economy there is less demand for this rank than in previous years.
- 3.11 In the compilation of information for this report it should be noted that the views of the trade and public have not been sought and there has been no official Hackney Carriage demand survey carried out for Bromsgrove Town Centre.
- 3.12 Members of the Committee may consider whether they wish to instruct officers to gather more evidential information regarding the current use of taxi ranks. Means of gathering such information may include a survey with the taxi trade, stakeholders, and the public and/or a third party taxi rank demand survey.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If the committee are minded to instruct officers to carry out a survey with the taxi trade, stakeholders and the public the cost of carrying out such a survey would be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
- 4.2 If the committee are minded to instruct officers to carry out a third party taxi rank demand survey the Council would be required to cover the cost of the survey. Taxi rank demand surveys can be costly and consideration would need to be given to the value for money this option would provide. Officers may be able to obtain costings if a full demand survey was considered.
- 4.3 If, at any future point, the Committee are minded to propose an alteration to the existing ranks, or propose new ranks, associated costs must include consideration of officer, legal and councillor time as follows:
- Full liaison with the Highway's Authority and the police
 - Committee report(s) preparation, review and presentation
 - Committee report(s) consideration - prior to and at committee(s)
 - Public notice preparation/publication
 - Consideration of representations
 - Preparation of official legal documents – Taxi Rank Orders
 - Procurement of road signage/markings and associated works costs (normally undertaken by the County Council)

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2026

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The relevant piece of legislation which enables the Council to create and vary Taxi Ranks, is the S63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The Act States:

- (1) *For the purposes of their functions under the Act of 1847, a district council may from time to time appoint stands for hackney carriages for the whole or any part of a day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at the public expense and, with the consent of the owner, on any land in the district which does not form part of a highway so maintainable and may from time to time vary the number of hackney carriages permitted to be at each stand.*
- (2) *Before appointing any stand for hackney carriages or varying the number of hackney carriages to be at each stand in exercise of the powers of this section, a district council shall give notice to the chief officer of police for the police area in which the stand is situated and shall also give public notice of the proposal by advertisement in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district and shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposal which may be made to them in writing within twenty-eight days of the first publication of such notice.*

A new rank cannot prevent access to any premises or impede the operation of other forms of public transport such as buses.

No rank can be placed upon the highway without the consent of the Highways authority.

- 5.2 In practical terms 5.1 above means approval will need to be sought from the County Council Highways Authority before work can start on the process for creating new, or varying existing, Taxi Ranks in the town centre. Approval is also required from the Chief of Police. Once approval has been obtained the process highlighted above at 5.1 (2) can be undertaken.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 6.1 The sufficient provision of taxi ranks helps supports residents and local businesses. By maintaining a resilient transport network, we also support resident's movement across the borough which includes

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2026

journeys relating to employment and to access leisure and other amenities. This clearly supports local businesses and the Council's Economy Development and Infrastructure priorities.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 No implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 Section 149 (7) of the Equality Act 2010 defines the relevant protected characteristics as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 6.4 Officers having assessed the above and conclude that the matters and recommendations raised in this report do not adversely impact or unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristics therefore a full equality Impact Assessment will not be required.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Rank Location Plan