

**Bridgend County Borough Council**

Proposal to consult on an intended use policy for hackney carriages (taxis)

Consultation document

**Date of issue**: **9 December 2016**

**Action required:** Responses by **9 January 2017**

**Tel**: (01656) 643 664

**Email**: consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

**Web:** www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation



**www.bridgend.gov.uk**

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## Overview

This consultation is to invite views from the local taxi trade on the proposal to implement and Intended Use Policy for Hackney Carriages (taxis).

## How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **9 December 2016** and will close **9 January 2017**.

You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways;

Tel:(029) 2087 1022

Email: licensing@bridgend.gov.uk

Online: [Click here](https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=148128376564)

Post:

Licensing and Registration Section

Bridgend County Borough Council

Civic Offices

Angel Street

Bridgend

CF31 4WB

Alternative formats are also available upon request.

## Data protection

How we use the views and information you share with us

All responses received by Bridgend County Borough Council will be seen in full by its staff members involved in the consultation process. The information may also be seen by other departments within the council or local service board members to help improve upon the services provided.

The council may also use the information gathered to publish subsequent documents both directly and indirectly linked to this consultation, however the Council will never disclose any personal information such as names or addresses that could identify an individual.

If you do not wish for your opinions to be publicised, please state so in your response.

## Related documents

For more information on consultations in Bridgend County Borough or how to join our Citizens’ panel.

Visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

## Background and information

* Some licensing authorities across the UK have been experiencing a high number of applications for Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences, and Joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licences from applicants who live in different local authorities to the one in which they are applying to.
* The principle of local control is important and a licensing authority will set out its regime to ensure that its statutory obligations to provide a service are met, whilst being proportionate to local conditions and supporting a viable fleet within the authority, with the understanding that such vehicles and drivers will trade primarily within that area.

## The proposal

 This proposal will primarily affect applicants for new hackney carriage licences; applicants will be expected to demonstrate a bona fide intention to ply for hire within the administrative area of Bridgend County Borough Council under the terms of the licence for which an application is being made.

 There will be a presumption that applicants who do not intend to entirely or predominantly ply for hire within Bridgend County Borough will not be granted a hackney carriage licence authorising them to do so. Each application will be decided on its merits.

## Why has this proposal been brought forward?

* To mitigate the risk to public safety presented by the remote trading of Hackney Carriages in other Authority areas;
* To seek approval to consult the local taxi trade on a draft policy to mitigate such risk.

## What are the advantages if the proposal goes ahead?

* To reduce the potential that remote trading could cause confusion for the public, as different types and colour vehicles from out of area marked “Hackney Carriage” could operate within the County Borough. This could also present a significant risk to public safety, as the authority that the vehicle is operating in does not have the same enforcement powers against drivers and vehicles from outside authorities.

## What are the potential disadvantages if the proposal goes ahead?

* None identified

## Impact of the proposals

* An initial equality screening has indicated that there will be minimal Impact on equalities but this will be reviewed following assessment of the consultation responses.

## Risks

* There is a risk of appeal against decisions made by the Council, but this is mitigated by the independent right of appeal to the Magistrates’ Court available to any applicant.

## Alternatives

* The alternative of “doing nothing” by not adopting a policy was discounted on the grounds that the justification for such a policy was on the grounds of public safety, in that if vehicles are predominantly operating outside of the area where they are licensed then they are not available to be spot checked by officers when carrying out enforcement.

#### It is also intended that similar policies will be introduced in The Vale of Glamorgan and The City of Cardiff, helping to harmonise policy across the Shared Regulatory Service.

## The consultation process

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Date  |
| Response deadline | 9 January 2017 |
| Final report published -www.bridgend.gov.uk/services/licencing | 6 February 2017 |
| Potential implementation | 14 March 2017 |

### How to make your views known?

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| --- | --- |
| Post: Licensing and Registration SectionBridgend County Borough Council Civic OfficesAngel StreetBridgendCF31 4WB | Email: licensing@bridgend.gov.uk Online: [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation) or [click here](https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=148128376564) Tel:(029) 2087 1022 |
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Alternative formats are also available upon request.

All views must be received by no later than **9 January 2017.**