

General Licensing Committee	
Meeting Date	8 July 2015
Report Title	Proposed revisions to penalty points scoring
Cabinet Member	Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Health
SMT Lead	Dave Thomas
Head of Service	Dave Thomas
Lead Officer	Ian MacKenzie
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Reference number: N/A
Recommendations	1. That the proposed revisions to the penalty points scoring are approved.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 As part of the ongoing review and management of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire service, revisions to the number of penalty points awarded for infringements of the Councils Local Conditions are recommended.
- 1.2 The purpose of the revisions is to ensure the system is up to date and fit for purpose, in offering a deterrent to discourage drivers and operators from adopting poor practices and ensuring the level of service provided to the public is of a high standard.
- 1.3 The current points system was last reviewed in full by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles Committee in February 2011.

2 Background

- 2.1 There are currently twenty one potential infringements listed, with penalty points ranging from two points to six for individual infringements.
- 2.2 If a driver “accrues” twelve points or more in a three year period, they will be summoned to meet the Licensing Committee for a decision to be taken as to whether or not their Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licence should be suspended for a period of time.

- 2.3 The system works well in maintaining standards and encourages drivers and operators to provide a high level of service. The system acts as an “early warning” to drivers and operators who are failing to meet the required standards.
- 2.4 Three drivers have accumulated more than twelve points in the last three years and have been bought in to the Licensing Committee for appropriate sanctions to be taken.
- 2.5 It is important to keep the system up to date and ensure the points for individual breaches reflect the severity of the infringement. Having reviewed the current points system, the Hackney Carriage Inspector has proposed the changes identified in the table at **Appendix I**.
- 2.6 The proposed points are designed to reflect the severity of individual infringements and the Council’s responsibility for maintaining standards within the industry locally.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposal is to amend the changes identified in **Appendix I**.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 The alternative option would be to keep the points at the current level. This option is not recommended as that would not bring the scoring system up to date and proportionate to the potential infringements.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Representatives of local drivers and operators were advised at the Liaison Meeting on 24th June 2015, that revisions to the scoring are to be presented to the General Licensing Committee. No objections were received.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Supports A Borough To Be proud Of and A Community To Be Proud Of.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage

Legal and Statutory	Enforcement of the licensing conditions is undertaken under the Council By-laws, Local Government (Miscellaneous provision) Act 1976, Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and other statutory requirements which support the list of contraventions listed in the report.
Crime and Disorder	No specific implications. However the Hackney Carriages and Private Hire service supports the night time economy and maintaining standards is an important aspect of the Borough Council's function.
Sustainability	Hackney carriages play an important role in the provision of public transport in the Borough and provide a positive impact to sustainable transport for the Borough.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this time.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this time.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this time.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- **Appendix I: Penalty Points Table**