

**Brighton & Hove City Council
Taxi Licensing
Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove**

Condition of Licensing Proposal – Compulsory Credit Card Readers - Objection

I wish to record my objection to the proposed condition of licensing for compulsory credit card readers on the following grounds:

I run as a self-employed individual trader and as such it should be my choice as to whether I take credit cards to run my business or not just like any other business.

I am concerned that there could be technical problems as a good phone signal is needed for the transaction to take place in a mobile environment and there are areas in the city where the signal can be weak. This also applies to other areas just outside of the city.

For example during Brighton Pride I know it was difficult at times with mobile signals and this often happens on New Year's Eve.

What provision will the council be making for compensation for loss of money on a failed transaction or where having completed a journey a credit card is denied because I am forced to undertake all journeys on the basis that the journey can be paid by credit card?

I understand that street vendor licenses (Street Trading Consents) are issued by the council. But does the council impose a condition of such Licensing/Trading Consent that a credit card facility must be provided?

I understand that alcohol licences are issued by the council. But does the council impose a condition of such Licensing that a credit card facility must be provided for payment?

A taxi journey is very different from other businesses in that payment is demanded with the fare shown on the taxi meter after the journey is completed. Other businesses usually work on a payment first before goods or a service is provided such as bus journeys.

I am aware of many licensed drivers who live on a day-to-day and hand-to-mouth basis and a condition imposing compulsory credit card readers could force these drivers to leave the trade and even put off new drivers from being licensed in Brighton & Hove at a time when the number new drivers being licensed here has dropped

When Licensing Officers carry out enforcement checks for vehicle conditions will drivers be suspended if there is no credit card reader available?

If there is a complaint from a customer for whatever reason a credit card transaction could not take place will there be a demand for CCTV and for the driver to be interviewed and possibly be suspended or lose his or her licence?

Until such a time as and when the council employs me and pays my wages I strongly object to be compelled to take all journeys via a credit card.

