

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Registration and Licensing Committee**

June 2020

### **Report of the Head of Legal Services – C.Griffiths**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected**

All Wards

### **Taxi Policy Amendment - Screens in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider introducing a measure, to permit the installation of safety screens in hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, during the Coronavirus, Covid-19 emergency period 'the emergency period'.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. This report seeks to introduce a measure, which during the emergency period will permit hackney carriage and private hire vehicle proprietors to install safety screens in their licensed vehicles.
3. It is proposed that an amendment be made to the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy, to permit the installation of safety screens in licensed vehicles subject to compliance with the specifications and procedure set-out in the revised Taxi Licensing Policy at Appendix 1.
4. Any safety screen which is installed in a licensed vehicle shall be temporary and will be required to be removed at the end of the 'emergency period'.

5. Members are being asked to approve the measure.

## **Background**

6. The Council has adopted a Taxi Licensing Policy 'the policy' containing the procedures, specifications and conditions for prospective and existing licence holders.
7. Conditions attached to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles do not permit any alterations to be made to a licensed vehicle other than in accordance with the policy.

## **Officer Report**

8. The All Wales Licensing Expert Panel have issued a template document setting out guidance 'the guidance' on the installation of safety screens in licensed vehicles.
9. To ensure a consistent approach across Wales, the document has been sent to all Local Authorities in Wales to consider adoption. The guidance has benefited from Counsel advice commissioned by Cardiff Council.
10. It is proposed that the policy be amended to enable hackney carriage and private hire vehicle proprietors to install safety screens during the emergency period, subject to compliance with the specifications and procedure set-out in the revised Taxi Licensing Policy. The revised Taxi Licensing Policy is attached at Appendix 1, and the relevant amendments are included at Appendix N of the policy.
11. It is further proposed that any safety screen installed in a licensed vehicle during the emergency period, shall be removed once the emergency period has ended.

## **Financial Impacts**

12. No implications

## **Integrated Impact Assessment**

13. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being

of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.

### **Valleys Communities Assessment**

14. No implications

### **Workforce Impacts**

15. No implications

### **Legal Impacts**

16. No implications

### **Risk Management Impacts**

17. No implications

### **Consultation**

18. Not required

### **Recommendation**

19. That the proposal to permit the installation of safety screens in licensed vehicles during the emergency period be approved, subject to compliance with the specifications and procedure set-out in the revised Taxi Policy at Appendix 1.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

20. To enable suitable safety measures to be implemented in licensed vehicles during the Coronavirus, Covid-19 emergency period.

### **Implementation of Decision**

21. The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

## **Appendices**

22. Appendix 1 - Revised Taxi Licensing Policy

### **List of Background Papers**

23. Guidance for the installation of safety screens issued by Public Protection Wales

24. Existing Taxi Licensing Policy

[www.npt.gov.uk/media/4270/taxi\\_licensing\\_policy.pdf](http://www.npt.gov.uk/media/4270/taxi_licensing_policy.pdf)

25. First stage impact assessment

### **Officer Contact**

26. Neil Chapple  
Licensing Manager  
Tel (01639) 763056  
Email [n.chapple@npt.gov.uk](mailto:n.chapple@npt.gov.uk)