

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

Registration and Licensing Committee

17th October 2022

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services – Craig Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected

All Wards

Taxi Licensing Policy Amendment - Electric Vehicles

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider an amendment to the Taxi Licensing Policy.

Executive Summary

2. This report seeks to make an amendment to the existing Taxi Licensing Policy ("the policy") which requires all new hackney carriage proprietor licences to be for vehicles which are wheelchair accessible vehicles.
3. It is proposed that zero-emission vehicles be excepted from the requirement that all new hackney carriage proprietor licences be for wheelchair accessible vehicles.
4. Members are being asked to approve a period of consultation with the trade, prior to final determination.

Background

5. Registration and Licensing Committee adopted the latest version of the Taxi Licensing Policy on 10th February 2020 which contains the

procedures, specifications and conditions which all prospective and existing licence holders need to be aware of.

6. The policy currently in place requires that all new hackney carriage proprietor licences are for vehicles that are wheelchair accessible. Non-wheelchair accessible vehicles can only be licensed, where the vehicle is replacing an existing non-wheelchair accessible vehicle.
7. The policy is designed to ensure that there is an adequate supply of both non-wheelchair accessible and wheelchair accessible vehicles licensed within Neath Port Talbot.
8. Welsh Government's "Wales Transport Strategy 2021" states that by 2040 all hackney carriage and private hire vehicles will be zero-emission.

Officer Report

9. The authority currently has 221 licensed hackney carriage vehicles, of which 164 are non-wheelchair accessible and 57 are wheelchair accessible.
10. There is currently one vehicle licensed that is zero emissions - a fully electric Tesla Model 3, which is non-wheelchair accessible.
11. To ensure that the authority maintains as far as possible the current proportion of wheelchair accessible hackney carriage vehicles, it is proposed that officers undertake a monthly review to look for any pattern of wheelchair accessible hackney carriage vehicles being replaced by zero-emission non-wheelchair accessible vehicles.
12. Where such a pattern is observed, a report to review the policy will be brought back before members.
13. Prior to any amendment to the Taxi Licensing Policy, it is proposed to undertake a consultation exercise with the existing hackney carriage and private hire trade, to include the various registered taxi associations, RMT Union and all drivers, proprietors and operators.
14. Following the end of the consultation period, a further report will be brought before members outlining any representation made and for final determination.

Financial Impacts

No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment

15. 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

16. No implications

Workforce Impacts

17. No implications

Legal Impacts

18. No implications

Risk Management Impacts

19. No implications

Consultation

20. A consultation exercise with the existing hackney carriage and private hire trade is proposed to be carried out.

Recommendation

21. That members consider the proposed amendment to the Taxi Licensing Policy prior to determining whether to commence a consultation exercise with the existing hackney carriage and private hire trade.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

22. To enable members to take into consideration any relevant comments prior to considering whether to implement the change to the Taxi Licensing Policy.

Implementation of Decision

23. The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

Appendices

24. Appendix 1 - First Stage Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers

25. Existing Taxi Licensing Policy

www.npt.gov.uk/media/4270/taxi_licensing_policy.pdf

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