

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

Registration and Licensing Committee

15th May 2023

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected

All Wards

Taxi and PHV (Wales) Bill - White Paper Response

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a consultation response to the Welsh Government White Paper on the Taxi and PHV (Wales) Bill.

Executive Summary

2. This report seeks to approve a consultation response on behalf of the Council to the Welsh Government's White Paper on the Taxi and PHV (Wales) Bill.
3. The consultation response replicates the draft Wales Licensing Expert Panel's response, which has been developed as a response on behalf of Public Protection Wales.
4. Members are being asked to consider whether any changes should be made to the Neath Port Talbot Council response prior to submission to Welsh Government.

Background

5. On the 9th March 2023, Welsh Government ("WG") published the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) (Wales) Bill, White Paper Consultation. The consultation is open for submissions until 1st June 2023.
6. WG's vision is to create a licensing system that is fit for a modern Wales, promotes safety for passengers and drivers, contributes to a cleaner environment, improves the customer experience and is accessible by all - "safer, fairer, greener".

7. To do this WG propose to introduce national minimum standards for drivers, vehicles and operators; improve enforcement powers; improve information sharing between local authorities and set targets for moving towards zero emission vehicles.

Officer Report

8. The Wales Licensing Expert Panel ("LEP") have developed a template response which can be used by local authorities in Wales. The LEP's response is currently in draft form however it is envisaged that it will form the basis of the response submitted by Public Protection Wales.
9. Whilst the LEP support WG's proposals in the main, it is felt that the proposals are not ambitious enough and will only tinker around the edges of archaic legislation. A foreword at the start of the consultation has therefore been included along with several additional proposals at question 22 - "Are there any other issues you would like to raise about taxi and PHV Licensing".
10. It is proposed that the Wales Licensing Expert Panel's response be adopted for use as Neath Port Talbot Council's response.
11. Officers of this Council hold the positions of Chair and Secretary of the Wales Licensing Expert panel and as such have been heavily involved in the development of the draft response. The views reflected in the response are therefore already the views of Council officers.

Financial Impacts

12. No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment

13. An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report as it relates to a response to a consultation and not the implementation of any changes in policy.

Valleys Communities Assessment

14. No implications

Workforce Impacts

15. No implications

Legal Impacts

16. No implications

Risk Management Impacts

17. No implications

Consultation

18. There is no requirement for external consultation.

Recommendation

19. It is recommended that members approve the consultation response at Appendix 1 for submission to Welsh Government.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

20. The consultation response reflects the views of Neath Port Talbot Council licensing officers and officers of the Wales Licensing Expert Panel

Implementation of Decision

21. The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

Appendices

22. Appendix 1 - Neath Port Talbot White Paper Response

List of Background Papers

23. Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) (Wales) Bill - White Paper

<https://www.gov.wales/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-wales-bill-white-paper>

Officer Contact

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