

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

Registration and Licensing Committee

19th February 2024

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected

All Wards

Taxi Licensing Policy Amendments

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider amendments to the Taxi Licensing Policy.

Executive Summary

2. This report seeks to make amendments to the existing Taxi Licensing Policy ("the policy").
3. It is proposed to make a number of updates to the Policy to reflect changes to the process of administering applications for hackney carriage and private hire driver and vehicle licences.
4. In addition, several minor amendments are proposed to ensure that the Policy remains up to date and compliant with legislation.
5. Members are being asked to approve the amendments.

Background

6. The Registration and Licensing Committee adopted the latest version of the Policy on 17th October 2022 which contains the procedures,

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

7. The Council has developed new ways of working since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and this in turn has changed the way in which customers access the licensing service.
8. The Policy is designed to enable perspective and existing licence holders to easily access information about the processes for applying for licences and the requirements to adhere to once licensed.
9. The existing procedures contained within the Policy require updating to reflect current practices. In addition, a holistic review of the Policy has identified some minor amendments needed to ensure that the Policy remains up to date and compliant with legislation.

Officer Report

10. A draft revised taxi policy is attached at appendix 1 to the report. Amendments are shown bold and underlined.
11. The proposed changes are:
12. Section 2.5 - National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals and Revocations (NR3): The retention period for information stored on the NR3 register has been reduced from 25 years to 11 years, in accordance with data protection legislation.
13. Section 2.7 - Medical fitness: References to General Practitioner replaced with "medical practitioner registered on the UK General Medical Council Register". This change is to allow private medical companies to provide services to taxi drivers.
14. Section 2.10 - HMRC tax checks: This section has been added to reflect new statutory requirements for taxi drivers to provide evidence of tax registration.
15. Section 2.12 - Duration of licence: Obsolete paragraph deleted.
16. Section 3.12 - Temporary installation of protective screens (Covid 19) - This section is no longer necessary following the end of the Covid 19 pandemic.

17. Appendix A - Hackney carriage and private hire driver licence application procedure for grant: This has been replaced in its entirety to reflect updated administrative ways of working.
18. Appendix C - Conditions for the licensing of private hire drivers: Change to the reporting time for drivers convicted of a criminal offence, from 7 days to 5 working days. This now aligns with the hackney carriage byelaws.
19. Appendix D - Application procedure for a hackney carriage / private hire vehicle licence: This has been replaced in its entirety to reflect updated administrative ways of working.
20. Appendix L - Conditions for the licensing of private hire operators: Removal of the condition requiring an operator to record an address of a hirer. This has been removed as in accordance with data protection legislation, the operator being mandated to record the address of the hirer is not considered relevant data for a booking to be made.

Financial Impacts

No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment

21. 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

22. No implications

Workforce Impacts

23. No implications

Legal Impacts

24. No implications

Risk Management Impacts

25. No implications

Consultation

26. The amendments to the Taxi Licensing Policy are minor and / or administrative and consequently consultation with the trade is considered unnecessary.

Recommendation

27. That members approve the proposed amendments to the Taxi Licensing Policy.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

28. To ensure that the Taxi Licensing Policy reflects current working practices and is compliant with legislation.

Implementation of Decision

29. The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

Appendices

30. Appendix 1 - Draft revised taxi licensing policy
31. Appendix 2 - First stage impact assessment

List of Background Papers

32. Existing Taxi Licensing Policy

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

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