

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services

Licensing Committee – 6 March 2013

Subject: Proposed amendments to Taxi/Private Hire Car and Taxi Driver/Private Hire Car Driver Conditions

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To amend certain conditions attached to Taxi/Private Hire Car and Taxi Driver/Private Hire Car Driver licences which have become outdated.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the proposed changes to the conditions as described in Appendix 1 be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Licensing Team have been planning to carry out a full review of the conditions attached to Taxi/Private Hire Car and Taxi Driver/Private Hire Car Driver licences as the last version was produced approximately 12 years ago.
- 3.2** The Scottish Government have opened a consultation exercise titled 'Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing - Proposals For Change' inviting responses until the consultation closing date of 15 March 2013.
- 3.3** Included in the consultation exercise is a proposal to convene a working group to consider the creation of updated licensing conditions for taxi and private hire car drivers, vehicles and booking offices.
- 3.4** In light of the proposal contained within the consultation it would seem more appropriate to amend the existing conditions where clear anomalies exist and tackle a full review of conditions thereafter.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The proposed revisions are required to ensure that the respective conditions reflect operational changes and existing practices. The revisions also remove the previous distinctions within the conditions between the Clydebank and Dumbarton & Vale of Leven zones in respect of wheelchair accessible vehicles. Most of the proposed changes are due to existing anomalies which exist within the taxi and private hire cars conditions however information on more specific issues are provided below.
- 4.2** The current conditions do not specify that the licence identification plates should be displayed on the exterior of the vehicle. Many operators have taken

to displaying plates inside the rear window. This change will allow an authorised Enforcement Officer to remove the plates from the vehicle while unattended if required. The identification plate will also be more easily read by anyone wishing to identify a particular vehicle in the event that they wish to make a complaint.

- 4.3** The current conditions specify that taxi/private hire car drivers should not smoke when they are carrying a passenger. This change will specify that drivers should not smoke within their vehicles at any time this being as a consequence of the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** There are no financial implications

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There is no increased risk to the Council associated with the contents of this report.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** The Equality Impact Assessment shows a minor positive impact on disabled people because conditions relating to wheelchair accessible vehicles will now apply to both zones within West Dunbartonshire Council. There are no other impacts on equalities.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** No consultation exercise was required in relation to this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** Improve economic growth and employability: The proposed changes simply rectify various anomalies and will not increase the burden of regulation on taxi and private hire operators.

Improve the wellbeing of communities and protect the welfare of vulnerable people: We believe the changes will have no practical impact on the travelling public.



Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services

Date: 04/02/2013

Person to Contact: Robert Mackie,
Senior Officer (Licensing Services),
Licensing Team,
Rosebery Place,
Clydebank,
G81 1TG.

Tel. No. (Direct line) 01389 738742.
robert.mackie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Proposed amendments to conditions attached to
Taxi/Private Hire Car and Taxi Driver/Private Hire Car Driver
Licences.

Background Papers: Equality Impact Assessment Screening Report 21/2/2013

Wards Affected: N/A.