

PLANNING, LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Date Written	18 th May 2021
Report Author	Paul Lewis
Service Area	Protection and Safety
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	9 th June 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Trwyddedu Tacsï - Cynllun Fflyd Werddaxi

Licensing – Green Fleet Scheme

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Welsh Government have launched the Green Fleet Scheme which seeks to encourage the taxi trade to switch to zero-emission vehicles.
- 1.2 The scheme will operate a ‘try before you buy’ initiative, allowing taxi drivers to try a fully electric, wheelchair accessible vehicle for 30 days free of charge. The trial will include free electric charging, insurance, vehicle licensing and breakdown cover funded by Welsh Government.
- 1.3 On completion of the trial, drivers will be asked to complete an evaluation survey and be provided with information on schemes/assistance available for long term ownership/lease of zero-emission vehicles.
- 1.4 The pilot is intended to assist Welsh Government in achieving its target of de-carbonising the taxi fleet entirely by 2028 as it is hoped it will help taxi drivers to realise the financial and environmental benefits of zero-emission vehicles and in turn contribute to the transition from diesel/petrol vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. The scheme will run for 2-3 years.

- 1.5 A full livery has been requested for the hackney carriages involved in this pilot scheme to ensure the initiative is advertised across the area and to encourage others to be a part of the scheme. The vehicles will be black in colour with red bonnet and roof.
- 1.6 The Authority currently have conditions of licence that prohibit vehicle advertising and require all Hackney Carriage vehicles be black in colour.
- 1.7 Under our existing conditions of licence the Green Fleet Taxi vehicles would be prohibited from being licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Merthyr Tydfil.
- 1.8 It is therefore proposed that the conditions relating to section 4 - colour and section 6.10 - advertising are set aside for vehicles licensed as part of the Green Fleet Scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The proposal outlined in 1.8 be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Welsh Government have launched the Green Fleet Scheme which seeks to encourage the taxi trade to switch to zero-emission vehicles.
- 3.2 The scheme will operate a 'try before you buy' initiative, allowing taxi drivers to try a fully electric, wheelchair accessible vehicle for 30 days free of charge. The trial will include free electric charging, insurance, vehicle licensing and breakdown cover funded by Welsh Government.
- 3.3 On completion of the trial, drivers will be asked to complete an evaluation survey and be provided with information on schemes/assistance available for long term ownership/lease of zero-emission vehicles.
- 3.4 The pilot is intended to assist Welsh Government in achieving its target of decarbonising the taxi fleet entirely by 2028 as it is hoped it will help taxi drivers to realise the financial and environmental benefits of zero-emission vehicles and in turn contribute to the transition from diesel/petrol vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. The scheme will run for 2-3 years.
- 3.5 A full livery is displayed on the hackney carriages involved in this pilot scheme to ensure the initiative is advertised across the area and to encourage others to be a part of the scheme. The vehicles are black in colour with a red bonnet and roof.
- 3.6 The Authority currently have conditions of licence for Hackney Carriage Vehicles. (Appendix 1). Section 4 of the conditions state that "The vehicle must be black in colour" Section 6.9 and 6.10 state that "The proprietor shall not display or suffer or

permit to be displayed in or on the vehicle any advertisement save for his own business”

3.7 Under our existing conditions of licence the Green Fleet Taxi vehicles would be prohibited from being licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Merthyr Tydfil.

3.8 It is therefore proposed that the conditions relating to section 4 - colour and section 6.10 - advertising are set aside for vehicles licensed as part of the Green Fleet Scheme.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

4.1 None

Alyn Owen, Deputy Chief Executive

**Cllr Tony Rogers, Portfolio member for
Housing and Public Protection**

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
		Attached
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No