

PLANNING, REGULATORY & LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date Written	28 th May 2021
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Service Area	Protection and Safety
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	9 th June 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Taxi Licensing – National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals and Revocations

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 In March 2020, the Welsh Government published the Harmonisation of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing in Wales. This document follows the Welsh Government's white paper 'Improving Public Transport' published in 2018. The aim of the recommendations contained in the document is to provide 'quick fixes' to improve the consistency of licensing standards and increase public safety across Wales. The recommendations form the basis for further development by Welsh Government into national standards.
- 1.2 The first recommendation which needs to be implemented is the use of the national register of taxi licence refusals and revocations (NR3) which Local Authorities are expected to be signed up to and using by 30th June 2021.
- 1.3 The Taxi Licensing Application Policy has been amended to include the procedure and process around the use of NR3 and a short policy drafted prescribing how the Council will handle requests for information, disclosure of information, and use of information as a result of an entry on NR3.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The amended Taxi Licensing Application Policy be approved to take immediate effect.

- 2.2 The Policy titled Policy for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in respect of requests for information, disclosure of information, and use of information as a result of an entry on NR3 be approved to take immediate effect

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2020, the Welsh Government published the Harmonisation of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing in Wales. This document follows the Welsh Government's white paper 'Improving Public Transport' published in 2018. The aim of the recommendations contained in the document is to provide 'quick fixes' to improve the consistency of licensing standards and increase public safety across Wales. The recommendations form the basis for further development by Welsh Government into national standards.
- 3.2 The first recommendation which needs to be implemented is the use of the National Register for Refusals and Revocations (NR3) which Local Authorities are expected to be signed up to and using by 30th June 2021.
- 3.3 NR3 is a mechanism for Licensing Authorities to share details of individuals who have had a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence revoked, or an application for one refused. This enables Licensing Authorities to fully assess whether an individual is a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence.
- 3.4 The Council has a Taxi Licensing Application Policy which has previously been approved by Planning, Regulatory & Licensing Committee but this for obvious reasons makes no reference to the NR3 and the processes and procedures concerning its use.
- 3.5 A draft amended Taxi Licensing Application Policy has been drafted and is attached at Appendix A. This amended policy addresses the implementation of the NR3 and sets out the process and procedure around its use.
- 3.6 A further policy has been drafted to prescribe the approach that will be taken by the Council on requests by other Authorities for further information about entries on NR3. This is attached at Appendix B.

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
Taxi and private hire vehicles: licensing guidance	22 nd March 2021	Welsh Government Website Taxi and private hire vehicles: licensing guidance [HTML] GOV.WALES
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No