

Committee: Planning, Regulatory and General Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 14th June 2021

Report Subject: Cardiff Capital Region Green Taxi Pilot Scheme

Portfolio Holder: Planning, Regulatory and General Licensing Committee

Report Submitted by: David Thompson, Service Manager – Public Protection

Report Written by: Helen Jones, Senior Licensing Officer

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Planning, Regulatory and General Licensing Committee
**								14.6.21

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform Members of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Green Taxi Pilot Scheme to be introduced in Blaenau Gwent and to seek approval to allow an exception to the Authority’s Policy Relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences in respect of the livery of these vehicles, which is consistent and identifiable across the CCR.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Welsh Government has set a target of de-carbonising the taxi fleet in Wales entirely by 2028 and is introducing a Green Taxi pilot scheme. It is hoped that Green Taxi pilots will assist in achieving this target as it will help drivers to realise the financial and environmental benefits of zero-emission vehicles, which will hopefully contribute to the transition from diesel/petrol vehicles to zero-emission vehicles.

- 2.2 The pilot scheme will run for 2-3 years. The associated charging infrastructure (for the exclusive use of taxis/private hire vehicles) will also be installed in each area near to or on each main rank in Blaenau Gwent and these arrangements are currently being finalised.
- 2.3 This Authority has been provided with two wheelchair-accessible Nissan [Dynamo](#) vehicles available for drivers to trial for free. The scheme will operate on a 'try before you buy' initiative, which will allow licensed taxi drivers to try the vehicle free of charge for 30 days. The trial is likely to also include free electric charging, insurance, vehicle licensing, breakdown cover etc. On completion of a 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.
- 2.4 It is anticipated that all charging points will be installed and vehicles available from June 2021 for the first trial periods to commence.
- 2.5 Some informal consultation has been carried out with the Blaenau Gwent Taxi Association at a meeting online on 28th April 2021. The Taxi Association were represented by their Chairperson and a positive discussion took place on the proposed changes which did not give rise to significant concerns from the trade. Furthermore, all taxi licensees will be written to in due course as the scheme progresses.
- 2.6 The vehicles will have a standardised livery, attached at **Appendix 1**, which must be approved by this Committee prior to the vehicles being licensed to allow an exception to the Authority's Policy Relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences. This livery will be standardised across the CCR.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1 (Preferred Option)**

Members note the contents of the Report and approve the exception to the Authority's Policy Relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences for each vehicle licensed for the use in the Green Taxi pilot scheme, including adoption of the livery to be used, as shown in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 **Option 2**

Members reject the proposal to adopt the livery for these vehicles as shown in **Appendix 1**.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan/Statutory Responsibilities/Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 This report links to the Corporate Plan specifically in relation to “Strong & Environmentally Smart Communities & Economic Development & Regeneration”.

Visit here: [Corporate Plan 2018-22.pdf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Corporate-Plan-2018-22.pdf)

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 This report reflects work carried out by the Licensing team within existing resources, and there are therefore no financial implications. Costs are fully funded by the Cardiff Capital Region.

5.2 There are no significant reputational risks associated with the proposal.

5.3 This report relates to the statutory powers and responsibilities of the authority, and no significant legal impact is identified.

5.4 There are no staffing/workforce implications associated with this proposal.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 There is no supporting evidence with this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Management of the scheme will be carried out by a management Company within the Cardiff Capital Region, which will be reported back to the Committee in due course.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 - Livery for Vehicles