
Report to Regulatory Committee

Date of Meeting: 13 August 2024

Subject: Review of Taxi Operator Licence Duration

Report by: Depute Clerk to the Regulatory Committee

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. Clackmannanshire Council regulates Taxis and Private Hire Car Operators and Drivers to ensure public safety. The legislation that governs taxi licensing is the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, (the Act). The Act has a default position of civic licences being granted generally for a period of three years. Local authorities have discretion in granting licences for a shorter period as they see fit. At present the policy (which was first introduced in 1983) of the Council is to grant Taxi and Private Hire Car operator licences for a period of 1 year.
- 1.2. At the meeting of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Operators Forum on the 10th of April 2024 the issue of the 3 year licences was raised by members of the Forum. The Forum unanimously agreed that they believed this option would be beneficial to the trade, it was agreed that appropriate action would be taken to allow for this change to be implemented.
- 1.3. Limited research has revealed that across Scotland there is not a uniform approach adopted in relation to the duration of licences. Some authorities issue licenses on an annual basis like Clackmannanshire, some for 3 years and others for an initial (probationary period) of 1 year followed by 3 year renewals.
- 1.4. It was felt that due to the nature of the trade in Clackmannanshire the impact of introducing this change would benefit the Taxi and Private Hire car trade.
- 1.5. The Licensing Authority, would also benefit from the change by easing the administrative burden on staff involved in processing the applications

2.0 Recommendations

The Regulatory Committee are asked:

- 2.1 To approve the introduction of a taxi and private hire car operators licence with a 3 year duration in addition to the existing and currently available 1 year licence option;

- 2.2 To approve a fee of £540 in relation to this licence subject to Council approval; and
- 2.3 To note that the increased fee relates to 2.25 times the current 1 year fee and creates a saving of £180 over a 3 year period for each operator that takes up a 3 year licence.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. None

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

- 5.2. This report recognises that the Licensing team will be able to provide a more efficient service by easing the burden of administering applications.

5.3. *Staffing*

- 5.4. This report recognises that the Licensing team will be able to provide a more efficient service by easing the burden of administering applications.

Exempt Reports

- 5.5. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

None

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

10.2 None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing - Best Practice for Licensing Authorities and Taxi and Private Hire Car Operators (3rd Edition) dated 31.05.2023

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
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