
Report to Regulatory Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2023

Subject: Emergency Report on Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Policy

Report by: Depute Clerk to the Regulatory Committee

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This emergency report aims to bring your attention to a proposal regarding the suspension of the current Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Policy which was approved by the Committee on the 30th of May 2023. The Licensing Authority is committed to ensuring equitable access to transportation services for all members of our community. However, it has become evident that a reassessment of our existing policies is necessary to address pressing concerns and meet the evolving needs of the public.
- 1.2. The current policy mandates that all new taxi plate applications must be for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) only. While this policy was initially conceived with the intention of enhancing the availability of accessible taxis in Clackmannanshire, there has since been developments which impact the overall efficiency and accessibility of our taxi trade. The Licensing Authority now has 10 taxi plates available, out of the approved maximum of 55.
- 1.3. Currently, the demand for taxi services appears to outweigh the availability. This is particularly apparent in the evening and at weekends. As a result, it appears that there is significant shortage of taxis in circulation. This leads to extended wait times and inadequate service coverage.
- 1.4. The current requirement that all new taxi operator applications is for WAVs imposes a substantial financial burden on potential taxi operators, many of whom may not have the resources to invest in specialised vehicles.
- 1.5. The adherence to the WAV-only policy limits the flexibility of existing and new taxi operators. By temporarily suspending this policy, we can create an environment that encourages more vehicles on the road as taxis. Ultimately driving improvements in overall service quality.

2.0 Recommendations

- 3.0 The Regulatory Committee are asked to consider the immediate suspension of the WAV Only Application Policy for a period of 6 months or until a quota of 52 active taxi plates is reached.

4.0 Considerations

4.1.

5.0 Sustainability Implications

5.1. None

6.0 Resource Implications

6.1. *Financial Details*

6.2. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6.3. *Staffing*

6.4. There are no staffing implications as a result of the recommendations in this report

Exempt Reports

6.5. 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 Standard licence Conditions (Appendix A)

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 ☐

Report Amending licence Conditions dated 17.01.2024

Author(s)

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Approved by

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