

COMMITTEE:	GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	15 SEPTEMBER 2014
TITLE:	MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE WORDING OF THE HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES LICENSING POLICY
PURPOSE:	FOR DECISION
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF REGULATORY DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND

The current hackney and private hire vehicles licensing policy was adopted on 22/10/2010; it came into force on 1 December 2010.

The Law Commission has been undertaking a review of the law in relation to taxi licensing since 2012 and Gwynedd Council and every other Licensing Authority has awaited the outcome of the Commission's findings in the context of amending taxi policies. The Commission submitted its report in May of this year along with a Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Draft Bill.

In the meantime, the Westminster Government's Deregulation Bill introduces some proposed measures in relation to taxi licensing. Proposed amendments are submitted in relation to matters such as the length of the licence of drivers and Taxi Company Operatives, along with introducing a process of approving agreements for sub-contracting vehicle driving by Operators.

Once the situation is clarified in terms of identifying which of the proposed measures are likely to appear finally on the statute book in relation to taxi licensing law, Gwynedd Council, along with every other Local Authority will press ahead to consult on reviewing the full policy.

In the meantime, minor amendments need to be made to the wording of the policy to update it so that it complies with the current taxi licensing administrative arrangements.

DETAILS OF THE CHANGES

The changes include: Deleting the out of date contact details of officers in the Licensing Unit Amending every reference to 'vehicle licensee' to 'vehicle proprietor'

In addition to this, clause (d) of condition 9 is deleted entirely as it refers to a process of transferring a licence from one vehicle to another vehicle. Legal advice was sought recently not to permit the transfer of a licence from one vehicle to another vehicle as there is no provision in relevant legislation to allow such a process.

See attachment for the amended policy.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to approve the minor amendments to the wording of the Hackney and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

