

COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision ✓

Mae'r Penderfyniad Wedi'i Ddirprwyo hwn wedi'i bennu yn 'Benderfyniad Allweddol' gan ei fod yn debygol o:

This Delegated Decision has been established as a 'Key Decision' as it is likely:

a) arwain at y Cyngor yn ysgwyddo gwariant sylweddol neu wneud arbedion sylweddol;
to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant;

neu / or:

b) fod yn arwyddocaol o ran sut mae'n effeithio ar gymunedau sy'n byw neu'n gweithio mewn ardal sy'n cynnwys dwy etholaeth neu adran etholiadol neu ragor.
to be significant in terms of its effects on Communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards.

c) Eraill / Other:

PWNC | SUBJECT: Change to policy for licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to change the current age-related policy conditions for Hackney Carriage / Private Hire vehicles licensed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, in order to ensure a balance is achieved between:

- i. The needs of the trade to operate a viable business.
- ii. The needs of the consumers with Rhondda Cynon Taf area.
- iii. The profile of the service to meet corporate objectives.

PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

Approval is granted to change the current age related policy conditions to allow the maximum age a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle is permitted to be licensed be extended from up to 3 years from date of first registration to 4 years.

This policy change comes into effect for applications for vehicles received on or after 1st April 2025.

Llofnod y Prif Swyddog

Chief Officer Signature



Louise Davies

Director – Public Health,
Protection & Community Services

5th March 2025

Enw (priflythrennau)

Name (Print Name)

Swydd

Designation

Dyddiad

Date

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION

	Cllr Bob Harris	5 th March 2025
LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE

LLOFNODSWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE

A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAD YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?

WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?

~~BYDD | YES~~

NA FYDD | NO ✓

Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol: ✓

Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed:

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

~~YDY~~ | YES NAC YDY | NO ✓

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Llywydd | Presiding Member) (Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:- _____ 07.03.25 _____

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar:

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be:

_____ 13.03.25 _____
DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadran Directorate:	Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name:	Kim Trilloe
Swydd Designation:	Health Protection and Licensing Manager
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	01443 425001

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

**CHANGE TO POLICY FOR LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND
PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

4th MARCH 2025

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR – PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Author(s): Kim Trilloe – Health Protection and Licensing Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to change the current age-related policy conditions for Hackney Carriage / Private Hire vehicles licensed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, in order to ensure a balance is achieved between:
- i. The needs of the trade to operate a viable business.
 - ii. The needs of the consumers within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
 - iii. The profile of the service to meet corporate objectives.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the recommendation to change the current age-related policy conditions to allow the maximum age a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle is permitted to be licensed, extended from 3 years to up to 4 years from date of first registration.
- 2.2 This policy change comes into effect for applications for vehicles received on or after 1st April 2025.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Licensing team has received a request from the Unite Union to consider extending the maximum age a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle is permitted to be licensed from up to 3 years to up to 4 years from date of first registration. The reason for the request is because the cost of both new and second-hand vehicles have increased in price to the extent that they are now too expensive and not affordable for the majority of the trade in RCT.
- 3.2 Currently vehicles age 0 to < 3 years are subject to annual testing, whereas those 3+ years are subject to 6 monthly testing.
- 3.3 Below is a table showing failure rates for vehicles age 0-4 yrs during 2024.

Age	Tests	Fails	Cat A fail	Cat B fail	%age Fail	% Cat A fail
0-3 Yrs	202	7	4	4	3.47%	1.98%
0-4 yrs	265	14	8	7	5.28%	3.02%

Note: Cat. A fail – A serious defect which presents imminent risk to the public safety and renders the vehicle unfit for continued trading with immediate suspension of vehicle licence.

Cat. B fail – A defect where the vehicle is considered suitable to continue trading subject to defect being remedied within 14 days of test.

- 3.4 The data shows that by increasing the age from 0-3yrs to 0-4yrs, the overall failure rate increases from 3.47% to 5.28% which equates to 1.81%, of which there is an increase in Cat A failures of 1.04%.
- 3.5 The Licensing team have reviewed the data and are satisfied that the proposal will not have a detrimental effect on vehicle safety because of the 6 monthly testing for any vehicle aged > 3yrs will continue.
- 3.6 It must also be noted that should a vehicle show poor maintenance and failure rates, enforcement action can be taken such as suspension or revocation of licence of the proprietor/operator.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 makes provision for a Council to attach to the grant of a licence of a Hackney Carriage under the Police and Town Clauses Act of 1847, such conditions as the district Council may consider reasonably necessary.
- 4.2 The 1976 Act also allows a district Council to attach to the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle licence such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary.
- 4.3 The current age-related policy conditions in RCT allows the maximum age a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle is permitted to be licensed is up to 3 years from date of first registration.
- 4.4 The Licensing team has received a request from the Unite union to consider extending the maximum age a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle is permitted to be licensed up to 4 years from date of first registration.
- 4.5 This increase in age limit will enable the trade to purchase vehicles at a lower cost and will encourage more drivers into the profession and able to purchase their own vehicles as opposed to driving for operators.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 This proposal does not have any impact on people with protected characteristics and accordingly an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not considered necessary.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This proposal does not have any impact on Welsh language and accordingly a Welsh Language Impact assessment is not deemed necessary.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 This report does not have any financial implications for the Council as it relates to a slight amendment to current policy only.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Police & Town Clauses Act 1847 were considered which provides legislation for taxis.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 The Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) who manage school contracts has been contacted and the Manager has expressed no concerns over the recommendations within this report.

- 9.2 The proposal has been discussed with Unite union, who initially raised it and will support it.

- 9.3 The proposal has been shared with the Chair of the Licensing Committee who will support the proposal.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 The Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle trade provides an essential service to all members of the public. It is inclusive of all, including those who are vulnerable and those with disabilities.

- 10.2 A safe and suitable taxi fleet is instrumental in assisting a vibrant economy. Hackney and Private Hire vehicles are used to transport children to school, by the public to attend medical appointments, for shopping, to go on holiday and assist in transporting people home safely from any other journey.

- 10.3 This report has been considered for evidence of the Five Ways of Working and how it may contribute to our Well-being Objectives.

- Prevention and collaboration: the purpose of this regulatory function is to protect the public and provide adequate numbers to those individuals who require access to Hackney/Private Hire Vehicles.
- Collaboration: The Licensing department meets regularly with 'Unite' union who represent many of the taxi trade within RCT to discuss topics relevant to the trade. The issue regarding the current age limits restricting the accessibility of vehicles for the trade has been raised as a concern.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 11.1 The proposed changes will benefit members across all electoral wards within the Borough.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle trade provides an essential service to all members of the public. It is inclusive of all, including those who are vulnerable and those with disabilities.
- 12.2 The proposal is not considered to be of any detriment to the safety of the vehicles in the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire fleet in RCT as they will be subject to the 6 monthly testing programme.
- 12.3 This increase in age limit will enable the trade to purchase vehicles at a lower cost and will encourage more drivers into the profession and able to purchase their own vehicles as opposed to driving for operators.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CHANGE TO POLICY FOR LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

None

Officer to contact

Kim Trilloe, Health Protection and Licensing Manager