



**Glasgow City Council**

**Licensing and Regulatory Committee**

**Report by Director of Legal and Administration**

**Contact: G McNaught      Ext: 74546**

**Item 3**

**14th August 2024**

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982  
TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR – INSPECTION REGIME – PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT TO DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**Purpose of Report:**

To ask Members to consider a change to the implementation date for the risk based inspection programme for Taxis and separately Private Hire Cars.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to:-

- (1) Note the terms of the report; and
- (2) Consider amending the risk-based inspection programme implementation date for Taxis and separately Private Hire Cars to 1 January 2026.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐

consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

## 1 Background

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee (“Committee”) on 14 August 2019, it considered a report by the then Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council in relation to introducing a risk based inspection programme for taxis, as an alternative to introducing an upper age limit for taxis. The risk based inspection programme would reduce the number of inspections required for newer taxi vehicles and increase them for older taxi vehicles.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Committee on 14 August 2019, in relation to the risk based inspection regime, the Committee agreed to introduce a risk based inspection programme for taxis, from 1 January 2023, as follows:
  - Vehicles 3 years and under only requiring one annual inspection.
  - Vehicles 3 years to 9 years would require 2 inspections per year.
  - Vehicles 10 years and over require 3 inspections annually.
- 1.3 At a meeting of the Committee on 23 November 2022, it considered a report by the Director of Legal and Administration in relation to postponing the implementation of the risk based inspection regime, detailed above, given the need for further IT updates as a result of IT changes to the inspection regime during the Covid – 19 pandemic.
- 1.4 At the meeting of the Committee on 23 November 2022, in relation to the risk based inspection regime for taxis, Committee agreed to amend the implementation date of the risk based inspection programme from 1 January 2023 to 1 June 2024. Members also agreed that taxi vehicles 10 years of age and over would be required to undertake 3 inspections annually and not 4, as previously agreed by Committee at its meeting on 14 August 2019.
- 1.5 Members will be aware that at a meeting of the Committee on 20 September 2023, it considered a report by the Director of Legal and Administration on the age of private hire cars following a public consultation and whether or not, in light of the responses received to the consultation, whether there should be a change to the age of private hire car policy. If there was to be a change to the age of private hire car policy, Committee was asked to consider introducing an inspection regime for private hire cars. After consideration, the Committee agreed, at its meeting, to amend the age of private hire car policy from 7 years to 10 years, amend a licence condition to reflect this change to policy, and to introduce a risk based inspection programme for private hire cars, from 1 January 2025 as follows:
  - Vehicles 3 years and under only requiring one annual inspection.
  - Vehicles 4 years to 6 years would require 2 inspections per year.
  - Vehicles 7 years and over require 3 inspections annually.
- 1.6 Given the agreed risk based inspection programme for private hire cars by Committee at its meeting on 20 September 2023, views were subsequently

sought from the taxi trade in relation to aligning the taxi risk based inspection programme to that of private hire cars, as detailed in paragraph 1.5 above.

- 1.7 Members will be aware that Committee considered a report by the Director of Legal and Administration on 28 February 2024 in relation to aligning the taxi risk based inspection regime to that of private hire cars. After consideration, the Committee agreed, at this meeting, to align the taxi risk based inspection regime to that of private hire cars, from 1 January 2025.

## 2 Current Position

The Licensing Section has recently agreed, working with colleagues in the Council's Strategic Information, Innovation and Technology (SIIT) team, for a new licensing replacement system to be implemented to the Section by end of September 2025. The current licensing system was implemented around 30 years ago. The work to implement this new licensing system will commence in or around September/October 2024 by the Licensing Section, colleagues in the Council's SIIT team and CGI, which will include a programme for scheduling vehicle inspections. Given the developments with the licensing replacement system, Members are asked to consider rescheduling the implementation of the risk based inspection regime from 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026. This revised date would enable a period of time for the new system to be embedded prior to implementing the risk based inspection regime.

## 3 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* None

*Legal:* The Licensing Authority is able to determine inspection regimes for licensed taxi and private hire cars under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

*Personnel:* None

*Procurement:* None

**Council Strategic Plan:** Not Applicable

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:** Not Applicable

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

**Climate Impacts:** Not Applicable

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts**

*Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report?*

No

*If yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out.*

Not applicable

## **4 Recommendations**

Members are asked to:-

- (a) Note the terms of the report; and
- (b) Consider amending the risk-based inspection programme implementation date for taxis and separately private hire cars to 1 January 2026.