Glasgow City Council

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Report by Director of Legal and Administration

Contact: G McNaught Ext: 74546

Item 3

25th November 2026

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
Private Hire Cars –Fixed Side Step

Purpose of Report:

To allow Members to consider a minimum criteria for a fixed side step on private hire cars.

Recommendations:
Members are asked to:-

(1) Note the terms of this report; and

(2) Consider approving the minimum criteria for a fixed side step, as detailed in paragraph 2.4 of this report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐

consulted: Yes ☐ No ✓

1 Background

1.1 Members will be aware that at a meeting of the Committee on 25 February 2026, it considered a variation application in respect of a private hire car licence holder seeking a modification to his private hire car licence conditions, to permit a fixed step on the vehicle. While that application for variation has been considered and granted by Committee, at the time of considering it, Committee asked for the Licensing Legal Manager to look at considering minimum requirements that a fixed step should meet for private hire cars.

2 Current Position

2.1 The licensing section, on the back of the request from Committee, consulted with representatives of the Glasgow Disability Alliance, on the matter of a fixed step on private hire cars. Representatives of Glasgow Disability Alliance visited the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Car Inspection Centre together with licensing and inspection officers on 27 April 2026. At this visit the Alliance representatives and officers were given a demonstration of a fixed step on a private hire car. The Alliance representatives were then asked for views in relation to the fixed side step.

2.2 Members should note that the majority of the representatives who attended the visit from Glasgow Disability Alliance were overall pleased that a fixed step on a private hire car was being considered by the Licensing Authority. The majority did however suggest that a hi-vis yellow marking along the front edge of the step should be required. Members should note this is a requirement under the side step criteria for taxis but was not on the step being demonstrated to the Alliance Group on 27 April 2026. Representatives of the Alliance had also suggested that "handles" within the private hire car vehicle would be of benefit, if a side step was being fitted, to enable some passengers to hold onto these when using the step. The Council's Taxi and Private Hire Inspection Centre officers had no adverse comments on the use of a fixed side step on private hire cars, provided the same criteria for taxis side steps is adopted.

2.3 Members should note that there has only been one private hire car fitted with a side step so far in relation to the private hire fleet.

2.4 If Committee was minded to consider a criteria for side steps on private hire cars, it may wish to consider the criteria used for taxis. This criteria is detailed below.

- M1 vehicle type approval/ISO approved;
- Can cover just the rear side door or the full sill length including front side doors;
- Have hi-vis yellow marking along the front edge;
- Have non-slip foot plate surface;
- Have "profiled/angled" lead edge at front and rear;
- Not protrude further than the existing vehicle manufacturer supplied door mirror; and
- Minimum width of step footplate should be 6"/150mm.

2.5 Members may also want to consider if an additional criteria of the policy should be that the licence holder gives consideration to whether it would be appropriate to fit “handles” within the vehicle, when fitting a side step.

3 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	There will be no financial implications for the Council. The cost of a fixed step would be met by the licence holder.
Legal:	The Committee is able to determine policy in relation to a fixed step on private hire cars.
Personnel:	None
Procurement:	None
Council Strategic Plan:	None

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council’s Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.	No significant impact
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	None at this stage.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	None at this stage.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	No Impact

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	No impact
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	None

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	

4 Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

(1) Note the terms of this report; and

(2) Consider approving the minimum criteria for a fixed side step, as detailed in paragraph 2.4 of this report.