

Subject: Private Hire Vehicle

Report to: Licensing Committee

Date: 10 September 2018

Report by: Licensing and Elections Manager

SUBJECT MATTER AND DECISIONS REQUIRED:

Licensing Committee Members are asked to consider a request which has been received from a plate holder asking that a wheelchair accessible vehicle over 10 years be permitted for licensing as a private hire.

And to decide whether:

- **To allow the request on the basis that the present policy remains unchanged and that any further requests continue to be considered on their merits or**
- **To refuse the request**

1. Policy Content

1.1 Extracts from the current policy for licensing Private Hire vehicles state:

- The Borough Council will not grant or renew a licence unless satisfied that the vehicle is suitable to be a licensed vehicle, is in a suitable mechanical condition, safe and comfortable. Only vehicles which meet the following specification will be considered for licensing
- The general policy is not to accept vehicles exceeding nine years of age on initial registration, or on subsequent renewals. In the case of purpose built vehicles, the age limit shall be nine years on initial registration, or ten years with wheelchair access, with no renewal limit providing the Council's licensing conditions continue to be complied with (The age of the vehicle to be taken from the vehicle registration document)

1.2 The nature of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire business requires vehicles to cover many miles and as such, the following will normally apply

- They will have higher mileage
- They will have general wear and tear and mechanical problems
- They will be more likely to have higher emissions

2. Current situation

2.1.An application has been received from a plate holder to licence a wheelchair accessible vehicle which is 14 years old as a private hire. This is contrary to the Council's present vehicle policy, which states that wheelchair accessible vehicles should be no older than 10 years on initial registration.

2.2The applicant is requesting members consider an exception to the policy on this occasion.

2.3The company has various contracts which require the transport of 4 or more wheelchairs at any one time. In order to fulfil this requirement a large vehicle is required. The vehicle that is proposed for licensing is a large minibus which has been adapted to carry a number of large wheelchairs. It is intended for this vehicle to act as a spare for the company should it be required.

2.4All licensed vehicles are subject to a vehicle inspection to MOT standard when first licensed and upon renewal. Vehicles over the age of 5 years are also subject to an interim test, every 6 months, to ensure they continue to meet the requirements.

2.5Similar vehicles of the same age are currently licensed by the council, but these were licensed under previous policy.

Options for Members

- To allow the request on the basis that the present policy remains unchanged and that any further requests continue to be considered on their merits
- To refuse the request

Does this report raise any legal, financial, sustainability, equality, crime and disorder or human rights issues and, if so, have they been considered?	Issues	
	Legal	√
	Financial	x
	Risk	Members can depart from policy if they are satisfied there are sufficient reasons for doing so which must be recorded.
	Sustainability	x
	Equality	x
	Crime and Disorder	x
	Human Rights	√
	Every Child Matters	x