

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING PANEL

10 JUNE 2011

SUBJECT:	PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Director of Law HR and Asset Management
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider an application to re-license the following vehicle: a Ford Galaxy, registration number Y634 UEN, beyond the normal over-age date for a licensed private hire vehicle.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That the Panel consider whether or not to re-license this vehicle for a further six months.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 It is a delegated function of this Panel to determine applications for Private Hire Vehicle Licences where the vehicle is over eight years old.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The current private hire vehicle licence conditions do not allow a vehicle to be licensed beyond the date eight years from the date of first registration, unless the Council is satisfied that the vehicle is suitable, having regard to mileage, appearance, condition and safety features. This condition relating to the age of the vehicle was imposed to improve the standard of vehicle being licensed for private hire.
- 4.2 Private hire vehicle licences are issued on a twelve monthly basis, however once a vehicle reaches six years old, six monthly licences are issued until the vehicle reaches eight years old.
- 4.3 Once a vehicle reaches eight years old, if the proprietor considers it to be in exceptional condition an application can be made to re-license the vehicle for a further six months. That licence can be issued under delegated authority, subject to the vehicle being inspected by officers and being considered to be suitable as in paragraph 4.1 above. Any further application cannot be granted under delegated authority and must be referred to the Licensing Panel.

5.0 APPLICATION

- 5.1 The proprietor of the vehicle, Mr Locke has applied to re-license the vehicle as he considers it to be in exceptional condition.
- 5.2 The vehicle has been licensed as a private hire vehicle since 4 June 2004 and the current licence expires on 9 June 2011.
- 5.3 The date of first registration of this vehicle is 19 April 2001.
- 5.4 On expiry of a previous licence on 20 April 2009, an application was made for a further six month licence, thereby extending it beyond the vehicle's eighth birthday and after inspection and a satisfactory compliance test at Walsh Autos, one of the Council's authorised testing stations, the licence was granted under delegated powers.
- 5.5 On expiry of that licence on 19 October 2009, an application was considered by the Licensing Panel to grant a further six month licence. The application was granted.
- 5.6 On expiry of that licence on 18 May 2010, an application was considered by the Licensing Panel to grant a further six month licence. The application was granted after a number of defects were rectified.
- 5.7 On expiry of that licence on 10 December 2010, an application was considered by the Licensing Panel to grant a further six month licence. The application was granted after a number of defects were rectified.
- 5.8 The vehicle has been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the pass certificate will be available at the meeting.

6.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 This is not a matter which requires consultation.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 A decision of this Panel can be subject to appeal.

12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

13.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no specific carbon reduction implications arising from this report.

14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are Community Safety implications arising out of this report due to the safety aspects of private hire vehicles.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

Private Hire Vehicle Licence application form