

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## LICENSING PANEL

15 JULY 2011

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

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider an application to re-license the following vehicle: a Ford Mondeo, registration number VE52 UTM, 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 2.1 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 Sharp 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 3 November 2006.
- 5.3 The date of first registration of this vehicle is 13 January 2003.
- 5.4 On expiry of a previous licence on 3 November 2010, an application was made for a further six month licence, thereby extending it beyond the vehicle's eighth birthday and after a satisfactory compliance test at Walsh Autos, one of the Council's authorised testing stations, the licence was granted. At that time the vehicle was not inspected as required in respect of a vehicle being licensed beyond its eighth birthday.
- 5.5 The expiry date of that licence is 3 May 2011 and Mr Sharp obtained a compliance test pass certificate from Walsh Autos. Mr Sharp then applied to renew the private hire vehicle licence. The application was submitted on 18 April 2011 and the vehicle was inspected.
- 5.6 The licence could not be granted under delegated authority beyond 13 July 2011 when the vehicle would be eight and a half years old.
- 5.7 Mr Sharp has requested that the licence be extended to 3 November 2011, a full six months from the expiry date of 3 May 2011.
- 5.8 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 file