

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING PANEL

20 JANUARY 2012

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 Honda Accord, registration number DV03 CWX, 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 Walker 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 25 February 2010 and the current licence expires on 20 January 2012.
- 5.3 The date of first registration of this vehicle is 18 July 2003.
- 5.4 On expiry of a previous licence on 21 July 2011, 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 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.

12.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
Is an EIA required? No

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.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Margaret Calvert**
Licensing Team Leader
telephone: 0151 691 8476
email: margaretcalvert@wirral.gov.uk

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Private Hire Vehicle Licence application form