

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING PANEL

8 JUNE 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 Vauxhall Astra, registration number DE52 HNK, beyond the normal over-age date for a licensed private hire vehicle.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.

3.0 APPLICATION

- 3.1 The proprietor of the vehicle, Mr Keeley has applied to re-license the vehicle as he considers it to be in exceptional condition.
- 3.2 The vehicle has been licensed as a private hire vehicle since 11 November 2002.
- 3.3 The date of first registration of this vehicle is 11 November 2002.

- 3.4 On expiry of a previous licence on 11 November 2010, 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.
- 3.5 On expiry of that licence on 14 May 2011, an application was considered by the Licensing Panel to grant a further six month licence. The application was granted, subject to new seat covers being fitted and paintwork on the bonnet and rear bumper being repaired. The work required was completed to the satisfaction of the Licensing Team Leader.
- 3.6 On expiry of that licence on 14 November 2011 a further application was considered by the Licensing Panel to grant a further six month licence and this was granted.
- 3.7 The vehicle has been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the pass certificate is attached to this report.
- 3.8 The current licence was due to expire on 14 May 2012, but this has been extended to 8 June 2012, the date of this meeting.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This is not a matter which requires consultation.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 A decision of this Panel can be subject to appeal.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of the proposal been reviewed with regard to equality?

10.2 No because there is no relevance to equality.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

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

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Private Hire Vehicle Licence application form