

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## LICENSING PANEL

20 JUNE 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE – PEUGEOT EXPERT – APPLICATION TO LICENSE TWO FRONT SEAT PASSENGERS</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</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 license a Peugeot Expert, registration number SF09 AYZ, as a private hire vehicle to carry seven passengers, two passengers being carried in the front.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Council policy, which is reflected in the Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions, allows non-standard vehicles (ie MPV's, people carriers) to be licensed as private hire vehicles subject to the standard Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions and the following additional conditions:-

- (1) There must only be the number of passengers seats fitted in the vehicle for which the vehicle is licensed.
- (2) Two fire extinguishers must be kept in the vehicle, one to be in the front and the other in the rear.
- (3) Vehicles to be fitted (in addition to the front drivers and passengers doors) with at least two side/rear opening doors and all doors must be easily accessible to all passengers and capable of being opened from inside.
- (4) A step (which must be approved by the Council) must be available for use at all times.
- (5) A sign on the rear of the seats in the vehicle must be displayed indicating there is a step available for use and indicating exit doors.
- (6) Seat belts shall be provided for every passengers the vehicle is licensed by this Council to carry.

- 2.2 The standard private hire vehicle conditions specify that the proprietor shall only allow one person to be carried in the front of the vehicle apart from the driver.

- 2.3 Members have previously considered applications to license a Volkswagen Caravelle, a Volkswagen Transporter, a Ford Tourneo and a Renault Trafic to carry two front seat passengers. These applications were granted by the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee. Members of the Licensing Panel have also considered an application to license a Vauxhall Vivaro to carry two front seat passengers which they granted.
- 2.4 Members have also previously considered applications to license a Mercedes Vito to carry two front seat passengers. These applications were refused.
- 2.5 In determining previous applications Members considered the following:
- Whether there was sufficient space for two adult passengers to sit comfortably and safely in the front of the vehicle
  - Access to passenger seatbelts
  - Whether passengers could exit the vehicle safely in an emergency
  - The position of the gearstick/handbrake, and the effect this would have on the comfort of the middle passenger.
- 2.6 The vehicle will be available for inspection at the meeting.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 This is not a matter which requires consultation.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

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

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

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

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

9.2 No because there is no relevance to equality.

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are community safety implications arising out of this report due to the safety aspects of private hire vehicles.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION**

12.1 That the Panel consider whether or not to license the Peugeot Expert to carry seven passengers, two passengers being carried in the front.

## **13.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

13.1 It is a delegated function of this Panel to determine applications for Private Hire Vehicle Licences in circumstances when an officer does not have such delegated powers.

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## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

Private Hire Vehicle Licence application form  
Compliance test pass certificate  
MOT certificate