

REGULATORY PANEL**26 NOVEMBER 2020**

REPORT TITLE	APPLICATION TO LICENSE A SEAT ARONA AS A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Regulatory Panel to consider whether to license the Seat Arona as a Private Hire Vehicle.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Regulatory Panel considers whether or not to license the Seat Arona as a Private Hire Vehicle.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 It is a delegated function of this Panel to approve vehicles that can be licensed as Private Hire Vehicles.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 That consideration of the matter be delegated to officers.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 An application has been received from Mr S Jamieson to license a Seat Arona as a Private Hire Vehicle. The Seat Arona is not a model currently licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle.

- 3.2 In September 2017 Members of the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee approved criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The criteria states that:

- Wirral Council must be satisfied that vehicles licensed as private hire vehicles are suitable in type, size and design for use as private hire vehicles, that it is in a suitable mechanical condition and is safe and comfortable.
- Although the criteria set out in this document may have been met, approval for the issuing of a licence may be withheld if the Licensing Authority is of the opinion that the vehicle is unsuitable for use as a private hire vehicle to transport members of the public for hire and reward.
- A vehicle that meets the criteria to be licensed as a private hire vehicle must have passed the MOT and Compliance Test in accordance with the Licensing Authority's procedure for testing vehicles before it can be licensed and before each renewal of that licence.

- 3.3 A copy of the criteria is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.4 A copy of the vehicle brochure providing further information regarding the vehicle specification is attached at Appendix 2.

- 3.5 The Regulatory Panel is asked to consider whether the Seat Arona complies with the Council's criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles and whether it is a suitable vehicle to be licensed.

- 3.6 Should the Regulatory Panel be satisfied that the Seat Arona should be licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle in Wirral Members are further asked to consider whether to license the Seat Arona registration number DG68 CXC.

- 3.7 The vehicle has been tested at one of the council's authorised testing stations and the certificates will be available at the meeting.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 48 provides that a district council shall not grant a licence unless it is satisfied that the vehicle is:

- Suitable in type, size and design for use as a Private Hire Vehicle
- Not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage
- In a suitable mechanical condition
- Safe and
- Comfortable
- That there is in force in relation to the use of the vehicle a policy of insurance

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are safety implications arising out of this report due to the safety aspects of private hire vehicles. The vehicle has been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and has passed the MOT and Compliance tests.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 This is not a matter that requires consultation.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Private Hire Vehicles contribute to harmful emissions including particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide which can be harmful to health.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Private Hire Vehicle Criteria

Appendix 2 - Seat Arona brochure

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date