



REGULATORY PANEL

3 MARCH 2023

REPORT TITLE	PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Regulatory Panel to consider a request to license a Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number NE11 LOV, as a Private Hire Vehicle outside the current criteria which states that side and rear windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Regulatory Panel determine whether to license the Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number NE11 LOV, as a Private Hire Vehicle.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 A request has been made to license the Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number NE11 LOV outside of the current policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. It is a delegated function of the Regulatory Panel to determine whether to licence a vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle where it does not comply with the current criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 That the request to license the Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number NE11 LOV, be determined by an Officer in line with the current criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles within the Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy which would result in the request being refused.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The current criteria that vehicles must comply with before being granted a Private Hire Vehicle Licence as set out in the Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy includes the following:

- The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and all other windows must let at least 70% of light through.

- 3.2 The proprietor of the vehicle, Mr Loveless, has requested to license the vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle to undertake work providing an executive travel service.

- 3.3 The date of first registration of the vehicle is 9 November 2018.

- 3.4 Mr Loveless has held a Private Hire Driver Licence since 23 April 2008 and this is due to expire on 3 May 2025. Mr Loveless has also held a Private Hire Operator Licence since 23 June 2011 and this is due to expire on 10 November 2027.

- 3.5 On 14 September 2018 Mr Loveless attended the Licensing Panel and was granted a request to be exempt from displaying the plates on the vehicle licenced at that time and from wearing a Private Hire Driver badge due to the type of work he undertakes as an executive travel service. It is the intention of Mr Loveless to use this vehicle for his executive travel service.

- 3.6 Should the Regulatory Panel determine that the vehicle may be licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle it will be necessary for it to be examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations in order for it to receive a valid MOT and Compliance certificate.

- 3.7 The vehicle will be available for inspection at the meeting.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Section 48 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 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 Section 48 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a council may attached to the grant of a licence such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary including conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle from which the licence relates.

5.3 Section 48 (7) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that any person aggrieved by the refusal of a district council to grant a vehicle licence under this section, or by any conditions specified in such a licence, may appeal to a magistrates' court.

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 as the Regulatory Panel must be satisfied that the vehicle is safe, suitable and comfortable to be licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle.

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 Petrol and diesel vehicles contribute to harmful emissions including particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide which can be harmful to health.

10.2 Hybrid and electric cars emit less greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol and diesel cars. (Source: European Environment Agency report 2018)

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from the content of this report.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Emailed request
Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
European Environment Agency Report 2018
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Regulatory Panel who are delegated to determine such matters in accordance with Section 8.4 of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee's Terms of Reference referred to in Part 3, Section B of the Council's constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date