

**LICENSING PANEL****28 JULY 2023**

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| <b>REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION</b> |
| <b>REPORT OF</b>    | <b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>           |

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is for the Licensing Panel to consider an application to license a Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number A22 PEC as a Private Hire Vehicle, outside the current criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles, which states that side and rear windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Licensing Panel is recommended to determine whether to license a Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number A22 PEC, as a Private Hire Vehicle.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 The Licensing Authority have received an application to license a Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number A22 PEC, outside of the current criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. It is a delegated function of the Licensing 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 application to license a Mercedes-Benz V220, registration number A22 PEC, 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 application 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 Bassnett, has applied 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 31 July 2017.

- 3.4 Mr Bassnett has held a Private Hire Driver Licence since 15 June 2023 and his current licence is due to expire on 14 June 2026.

- 3.5 Should the Licensing 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.

- 3.6 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 attach 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 Licensing 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 The Licensing Panel must have regard to their Public Sector Equality Duty when considering the application.

## **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**

Application form  
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 Licensing Panel who are delegated to determine such matters in accordance with Section 8.4 of the Licensing 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 |
|-----------------|------|
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