
Subject: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Application to licence vehicle outside of policy guidelines

Meeting and Date: Regulatory Committee – 10 February 2015

Report of: Licensing Team Leader

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To consider an application to licence a Private Hire Vehicle outside of policy guidelines

Recommendation: That the Committee determine the application

1. Summary

1.1 Mr Lyndon Reynolds has applied to the Council asking for permission to licence a Fiat Panda, as a Private Hire Vehicle.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The regulation of Private Hire Vehicles is a statutory duty of the Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

2.2 This Council has a policy stating that:

Any vehicle licensed for use as a private hire vehicle must conform to the following specifications:

Vehicles shall have a passenger seating capacity of not less than 4 persons and not more than 8 persons.

2.3 Mr Reynolds is wishing to operate a three seated vehicle capable of fulfilling the market for passenger journeys for single passengers, couples, etc, and has stated that the vehicle fulfils the policy requirements in the main, except for the minimum number of passenger seats. He also states that the vehicle is very environmentally friendly and that because of the reduced running costs he would be able to offer a more cost effective service to passengers.

3 Identification of Options

Options:

- (a) To allow the application to licence the Fiat Panda as a Private Hire Vehicle, notwithstanding that this would be a deviation from existing policy.
- (b) To reject the application as there are insufficient reasons to justify a deviation from existing policy.

4 Evaluation of Options

Options:

- (a) Mr Reynolds is seeking to launch this service as he has identified a potential market for such passenger journeys. He feels that the Fiat Panda will be the ideal vehicle for this purpose. This vehicle (if granted) will be included as part of the fleet at County Cars. The start rate for this vehicle will be £2.30.

The vehicle is not capable of carrying the minimum amount of 4 passengers as defined in the policy as the specifications for the granting of a private hire vehicle licence. However, Mr Reynolds is requesting that the Committee consider whether the vehicle could be licensed as it fulfils the remainder of the licensing requirements.

If such a deviation from policy were allowed then it would be necessary to make clear that this was an exceptional circumstance and that under normal circumstances such a deviation would not be considered.

- (b) If the Committee felt that there were insufficient reasons to deviate from the Policy, then the application should be refused.

5 Appendices

Appendix A – Application form and supporting documents submitted by Mr Reynolds

6 Background Papers

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy

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