



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 17 October 2007

ITEM 8

Report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services

Request For Consideration Of Vehicles Resembling Currently Licensed Types Of Hackney Carriages To Be Licensed As Private Hire Vehicles

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To consider the request made and decide whether or not to allow vehicles that resemble current hackney carriages to be licensed as private hire vehicles.
- 1.2 If necessary, agree to an amendment of the Council's conditions for licensed private hire vehicles.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Taxi Licensing Section has recently received requests for members to consider either the Mercedes Vito and/or the Volkswagen Transporter for licensing as private hire vehicles.
- 2.2 Several manufacturers and reputable coachbuilders produce 'private hire' versions of the above vehicles, with seating configurations capable of carrying up to eight passengers. However, both of these vehicle types have been licensed previously by this committee as hackney carriages, with the latest versions of the hackney bodysell shapes being identical to the proposed private hire shape.
- 2.3 The Council's conditions for licensed private hire vehicles currently preclude the licensing of vehicles which closely resemble existing licensed hackney carriages. This is designed to avoid potential passengers being put at risk by hailing a vehicle which is actually a private hire vehicle engaged in illegal plying for hire.
- 2.4 The comment has been made that although the proposed vehicles are the same shape as existing hackney carriages, as all of the Council's hackney carriage fleet is now the agreed 'corporate yellow' colour, they can be differentiated by means of colour alone.

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Background papers:	None
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None

Legal

2. None

Personnel

3. None

Equalities impact

4. None

Corporate priorities

5. Taxi Licensing contributes to the priority of **delivering excellent services and value for money.**