

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

3RD APRIL 2006

Issue of Additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1 - Advertisement

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the manner in which a ballot will be carried out to distribute additional Hackney Carriage plates.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 Whether to offer to issue 11 available Hackney Carriage plates by means of a ballot as detailed within the report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Deregulation Plan was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 25th August 2005 and 29th September 2005.
- 3.2 Under the provisions of the plan 10 additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences were issued immediately and 5 further licences were to be issued from April 2006 with 5 more in April 2007 and Deregulation taking place in April 2005.
- 3.3 The original 10 extra licences were put up for distribution, following a ballot, in October 2005 and to date 4 of these licences have either been taken up or are in the process of application.
- 3.4 It is proposed to hold a ballot for the issue of the 6 remaining plates from October and the 5 new issue from this April, total 11 plates, at the May meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Committee.

4. ADVERTISEMENT

- 4.1 In the interest of fairness and equity it is proposed to place an advertisement in the local newspaper for one week inviting persons who wish to enter the ballot for a Hackney Carriage Licence to register their interest (copy of advertisement Appendix

1). The Council does not operate a formal waiting list but all previous respondents to the ballot last July will be contacted and asked if they wish to express an interest. A closing date for receipt of applications for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences is included in the advertisement. Any application received after the closing date will not be considered.

The advertisement will establish the criteria for issue of the licences will be in compliance with specifications, conditions and guidelines set down by the Authority and for the time being in force.

4.2 **The Draw**

It is intended that the ballot draw will take place at the Licensing and Environmental Committee meeting in May 2006 and that representatives of Wyre Forest Taxi Drivers will be invited to attend

4.3 It is recommended that:

- a) Any application received can only be for one Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence and only one application per person can be made.
- b) Each applicant be allocated an independent draw ticket number.
- c) Each applicant will have his/her name and address together with draw ticket number entered on a master sheet. The master sheet will be kept by the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager and will only be made available to Members of the Licensing and Environmental Committee after the draw has been made and will not be made publicly available at any time.
- d) The individual draw tickets be placed in a draw box witnessed by Members of Licensing and Environmental Committee.
- e) The draw will be made by means of removal of the numbered draw tickets from the box by the Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee or her nominated representative.

Successful Applicants

- f) The first 11 tickets drawn from the box will be determined as the successful applicants for the 11 additional Hackney Carriage Licences determined by ballot. The next 11 tickets drawn to be placed on the reserve list in the order drawn.
- g) The drawn numbered tickets will in turn be checked with the master sheet for the applicants details.
- h) The successful applicants will be informed by letter verifying the draw.
- i) Such successful applicants will be required to submit an application, together with appropriate fee, for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence within 28 days of the date of the draw. Failure to do so will result in the offer being withdrawn and offered to the next person on the reserve list.

- 4.4 The successful candidates will be issued with one Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence each providing the applicant meets the Authority's conditions for the type of vehicle to be provided and licensed as a Hackney Carriage.

If a suitable vehicle is not licensed within 3 months the Authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer and offer the licence to the next person on the reserve list.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications but the issuing of 11 additional licences will result in additional licensing income

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The allocation of the additional licences is in accordance with the Council's De-regulation Policy.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The ballot is in accordance with the Council's Deregulation Plan and mirrors previous ballots.

8. CONSULTEES

- 8.1 None.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None

15.3.06



ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES

As part of Wyre Forest District Council's Deregulation Plan 11 Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences are now available.

The selection for the granting of these taxi licences will be by an official draw (details to be arranged).

If you wish to be considered for one of these licences you should **APPLY BY COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FORM** (obtainable at the below address).

CLOSING DATE for applications is:

Any application received after the closing date will not be considered. An application will only be considered for one taxi licence and only one application per person can be made. Applicants will be informed of the details of the draw when arranged.

Successful applicants will be required to submit an application for a hackney carriage vehicle within 28 days of the date of the draw. Failure to do so will result in the offer of a licence being withdrawn and offered to the next person on the reserve list.

Current taxi licence fees and application forms are available on request on Tel. No. 01562 732595.

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