

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
5th JUNE 2006

Issue of Additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the administration processes of additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences granted under the provisions of the Deregulation Plan of 2005.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **The Head of Planning, Health and Environment and the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager be given authority to issue the 11 additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences without a ballot on a first come, first served, basis, subject to eligibility.**

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 made available immediately, with 5 further licences to be issued from April 2006, and 5 in April 2007.
- 3.3 Full Deregulation will take place in April 2008.
- 3.4 The Council has granted 4 new licences in 2005, leaving a balance of 6 licences from the year.
- 3.5 Five more licences can be granted from April 2006, making a total of 11 licences available.

- 3.6 A Public Notice was placed in the Kidderminster Shuttle on Thursday 20th April 2006 inviting applications.
- 3.7 The Licensing and Environmental Committee at its meeting on Monday 3rd April 2006 were informed that previous similar notices to the public had resulted in great demand, and that the grant of the 11 available licences should be awarded by means of a ballot.
- 3.8 On this occasion, the demand has changed; the ballot process now seems inappropriate as only 6 new applications have been received.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 All new Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence plates issued have to comply with the new conditions as outlined within the Deregulation Plan - i.e.
- Vehicles presented for licence must be purpose built hackney carriages,
 - Capable of carrying wheelchair passengers,
 - Less than 2 years old, and
 - Silver in colour.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The new vehicle licence conditions which have been applied since the 1st October 2005 appear to provide a robust entry control to the hackney fleet, and therefore the demand for new vehicle licences is not likely to exceed supply opportunity before final deregulation in 2008.
- 7.2 The ballot for additional Hackney Carriage plates can be withdrawn and licenses can be issued under Delegated powers.

8. CONSULTEES

- 8.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Halcrow Taxi Survey Report published in 2005

9.2 Wyre Forest Deregulation Plan 2005

17th May 2006