

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE****19<sup>th</sup> February 2007****Issue of Additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences**

<b>OPEN</b>	
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	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 and issue the five remaining Hackney Carriage plates by means of a ballot as detailed within the Deregulation Plan and this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Deregulation Plan was approved by Cabinet at its meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005. It included arrangements for a phased deregulation of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence numbers over a three year period. Under the provisions of the Deregulation Plan, ten additional Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences were issued immediately after the Plan was approved and five further licences were issued in April 2006. Five more will be issued in April 2007 and Deregulation will take place in April 2008.
- 3.2 The total of fifteen extra plates issued immediately following approval of the Deregulation Plan and in April 2006 have now been either taken up, or are in the process of being allocated.
- 3.3 It is proposed to advertise that a ballot for the issue of the five remaining plates will be held at the April 2007 meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Committee and, if sufficient interest is obtained, to allocate according to the outcome of the ballot.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

##### **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 at Appendix 1).
- 4.2 A closing date for receipt of applications for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences will be included in the advertisement. Any application received after the closing date will not be considered.
- 4.3 The advertisement will give details of the arrangements for the issue of the licences and will be in compliance with specifications, conditions and guidelines set down by the Council in the Deregulation Plan and for the time being in force.

##### **The Ballot**

- 4.4 It is intended that the ballot will take place at the Licensing and Environmental Committee meeting in April 2007 and that representatives of Wyre Forest Taxi Drivers will be invited to attend.
- 4.5 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 is allocated an independent ticket number.
  - c) Each applicant will have his/her name and address together with the 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 ballot has been made and will not be made publicly available at any time.
  - d) The individual tickets should be placed in a ballot box witnessed by Members of Licensing and Environmental Committee.
  - e) The ballot will be made by means of removal of the numbered tickets from the box by the Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee or his nominated representative.

##### **Successful Applicants**

- f) The first five tickets drawn from the box will be the successful applicants for the five additional Hackney Carriage Licences determined by ballot. The next five tickets drawn will 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 ballot.
  
  - i) Each successful applicant will be required to submit an application, together with the appropriate fee, for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence within 28 days of the date of the ballot. Failure to do so will result in the offer being withdrawn and offered to the next person on the reserve list.
- 4.6 The successful candidates will each be issued with one Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence providing they meet the Authority's conditions for the type of vehicle to be provided and licensed as a Hackney Carriage.
- 4.7 If a suitable vehicle is not licensed within three 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 five 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 Plan.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

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

## **8. CONSULTEES**

- 8.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None.

5th February 2007



**ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES**

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

The selection for the granting of these taxi licences will be by an official ballot (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).

**THE 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 ballot when arranged.

Successful applicants will be required to submit an application for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence, together with the appropriate fee, within 28 days of the date of the ballot. Failure to do so will result in the offer of a licence being withdrawn and offered to the next person on the reserve list. Please note the fee is not refundable.

Details of current taxi licence fees and application forms are available on request on Tel. No. 01562 732595.

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