

Open

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Agenda

10.30am
Monday, 3rd September 2012
The Council Chamber
Civic Centre
Stourport-On-Severn



Licensing and Environmental Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor P B Harrison
Vice-Chairman: Councillor A T Hingley

Councillor R Bishop

Councillor C Brewer

Councillor P Dyke

Councillor J Greener

Councillor P V Hayward

Councillor V Higgs

Councillor M B Kelly

Councillor N Knowles

Councillor M Price

Councillor M A Salter

Councillor D R Sheppard

Councillor N J Thomas

Councillor G C Yarranton

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to request to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

There are particular circumstances when the Ethics and Standards Committee may exclude the public, which are in addition to those available at meetings of the Council, its Cabinet and Committees etc. These apply when the Ethics and Standards Committee considers the following:

Information relating to a particular chief officer, former chief officer or applicant to become a chief officer of a local probation board within the meaning of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.

Information which relates in any way to matters concerning national security.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of this constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

For further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Louisa Bright, Democratic Services Officer, Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Monday, 3rd September 2012

The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport-On-Severn

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Director of Community Assets & Localism, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on the 24 th July and 25 th July 2012.	6
5.	Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997) To receive a report from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asks the Committee to consider an application for the Renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr L Bianco, P&P Central Taxis, Unit G14 Paddington House, New Road, Kidderminster, DY10 1AS, which falls outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.	20

6.	<p>Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)</p> <p>To receive a report from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asks the Committee to consider an application for the Renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R.E Ingle of Regency Vehicle Hire, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster, DY10 1QP, which falls outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.</p>	32
7.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Community Assets & Localism before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
8.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>"That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act".</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

9.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Community Assets & Localism before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
CIVIC HALL, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN
TUESDAY, 24TH JULY 2012 (1.00PM)

Present

Councillors: P B Harrison (Chairman), R Bishop, C Brewer, J A Hart, M J Hart, P V Hayward, V Higgs, N Knowles, B McFarland, M Price, M Salter, D Sheppard, N J Thomas and G C Yarranton.

Observers

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.7 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A T Hingley (Vice-Chairman), P Dyke, J Greener and M B Kelly.

LIC.8 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor J A Hart was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Greener.
Councillor M J Hart was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A T Hingley.
Councillor B McFarland was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M B Kelly.

The Solicitor reminded Members the meeting would be held in accordance with the code of conduct adopted by Council in June 2012, and not the old system of declaring personal and prejudicial interests.

LIC.9 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.10 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Before the meeting continued, the Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) informed Members that the applications to renew the Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licences that were being presented to the Committee fell outside of the Policy adopted by the Council and that they were being asked to assess whether or not the vehicles presented were of a suitable standard and quality for them to be an exception to the current Wyre Forest District Council age policy. The Committee were reminded that their decision was to be based on the prime aim of the Council, which was to make travelling in Wyre Forest as safe as possible.

A point of clarification was made in relation to agenda item number 6, the name of the applicant for the renewal of the Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence was Mr

Trevor Owen and not Mr R E Ingle as stated on page 21 of the report.

Mr T Owen spoke in support of the applications and confirmed that his comments applied to all of his other applications and those of Mr Ingle on whose behalf he had been appointed to speak.

LIC.11 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R E Ingle of Albany Taxi's, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number DN54 WJD.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number DN54 WJD at this point (1.42pm), and returned at 1.47pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number DN54 WJD, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC001 vehicle registration number DN54 WJD be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.12 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr T Owen of Holland Taxi's, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number KE04 ZMC.

In response to a Members' question, Mr Owen confirmed he would have 21 days to replace the vehicle or appeal the decision made by the Committee at the

Magistrates Court.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number KE04 ZMC at this point (2.21pm), and returned at 2.28pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number KE04 ZMC, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC007 vehicle registration number KE04ZMC be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.13

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R E Ingle of Albany Taxi's, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number SJ05 NBD.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number SJ05 NBD at this point (2.51pm), and returned at 2.57pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number SJ05 NBD, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC029 vehicle registration number SJ05NBD be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.14

Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

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A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R E Ingle of Regency Vehicle Hire, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number MF54 ZXK.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number MF54 ZXK at this point and returned at 3.10pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number MF54 ZXK, the Committee decided that subject to the following works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer within 28 days of this meeting: the works being that the cover on the bottom rear of the drivers seat is secured, that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC043 vehicle registration number MF54 ZXK be granted, for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because, otherwise, on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.15

Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R E Ingle of Albany Taxi's, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number BT54 FUM.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number BT54 FUM at this point (3.23pm), and returned at 3.29pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney

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Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number BT54 FUM, the Committee has decided that subject to the following works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer within 28 days of this meeting: the works being that the front bumper rubber skirt is to be replaced, that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC057 vehicle registration number BT54 FUM be granted, for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because, otherwise, on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.16 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R E Ingle of Albany Taxi's, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number VO05 ODM.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number VO05 ODM at this point (3.38pm), and returned at 3.44pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number VO05 ODM, the Committee decided that subject to the following works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer within 28 days of this meeting: the works being that the nearside rear seat squabs requires recovering, that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC067 vehicle registration number VO05 ODM be granted, for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because, otherwise, on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.17 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an

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application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R E Ingle of Albany Taxi's, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number KJ54 OTN.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number KJ54 OTN at this point (4.00pm), and returned at 4.06pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Owen, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number KJ54 OTN, the Committee decided that subject to the following works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer within 28 days of this meeting:

- 1. the front offside headlight lens to be replaced; and**
- 2. the offside rear seat squab to be repaired/stitched (as appropriate);**

that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC075 vehicle registration number KJ54 OTN be granted, for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because, otherwise, on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4.10pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
CIVIC HALL, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN
WEDNESDAY, 25TH JULY 2012 (10.00AM)

Present:

Councillors: P B Harrison (Chairman), A T Hingley (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop, C Brewer, P Dyke, J Greener, P V Hayward, V Higgs, N Knowles, B McFarland, M Price, M A Salter, D R Sheppard, N J Thomas and G C Yarranton.

Observers

There were no members present as observers

LIC.18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M B Kelly.

LIC.19 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor B McFarland was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M B Kelly.

LIC.20 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

Before the meeting continued, the Solicitor reminded Members that the meeting was a continuation of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th July 2012, and would be held in accordance with the code of conduct adopted by Council in June 2012 relating to disclosable pecuniary interests and other disclosable interests. Members were also reminded that when they left the Civic Hall to inspect the taxis, they were still part of the meeting and must conduct themselves accordingly.

LIC.21 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr Brian Richard Gilbert of 40 Claines Crescent, Kidderminster DY10 3BU, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number MM54 AWY, and advised the address of the applicant was number 40 Claines Crescent and not 49 as stated on page 7 of the report.

The Chairman invited the applicant to speak on behalf of his application. Mr Gilbert addressed the committee and asked them to support his application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number MM54 AWY at this point (10.16am), and returned at 10.20am.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Gilbert, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number MM54 AWY, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC014 vehicle registration number MM54 AWY be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition: where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.22

Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr Antonio Maffei of 43 Cairndhu Drive, Kidderminster DY10 2TB, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number KX54 GPF.

Mr Maffei spoke in support of his application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number KX54 GPF at this point (10.42am), and returned at 10.48am.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Maffei, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number KX54 GPF, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC021 vehicle registration number KX54 GPF be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that there are material grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this

application; the material grounds being that the vehicle was presented in exemplary condition.

LIC.23 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr Alister Graham Layton of 19 The Orchards, Franche, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 5LJ, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number VN54 BNA.

The Chairman invited the applicant to speak on behalf of his application, Mr Layton declined the invitation.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number VN54 BNA at this point (10.59am), and returned at 11.02am.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Layton, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number VN54 BNA, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC027 vehicle registration number VN54 BNA be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that there are material grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application; the material grounds being that the vehicle was presented in exemplary condition.

LIC.24 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr Paul Anthony Laban of 58 Coventry Street, Kidderminster DY10 2BZ, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number CA05 KCZ.

Mr Laban spoke in support of his application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration

number CA05 KCZ at this point (11.16am), and returned at 11.24am.

The Chairman read out a note from the proprietor of Scuffs & Scrapes body shop which had been handed to the Licensing Officer, stating a booking had been made for a repair job to be carried out on the rear offside bumper of vehicle registration number CA05 KCZ.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Laban, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number CA05 KCZ, the Committee decided that the application for renewal of the Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licence HC050 for Vehicle Registration Number CA05 KCZ be refused as it falls outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997 and on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was not presented in an exceptional condition: in particular,

- (1) there were holes in the rear passenger foot well carpets;**
- (2) there were cigarette burns in the front and rear passenger seats;**
- (3) there was a crack in the drivers door panel; and**
- (4) in general, the interior of the vehicle was in a poor condition and the general presentation of the exterior of the vehicle was also poor,**

and therefore there were no grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

Councillor P Dyke left the meeting at this point, (11.47pm).

LIC.25

Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr David Watkins of 7 Renfrew Gardens, Kidderminster DY11 6BA, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number HD54 CYL.

Mr Watkins spoke in support of his application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number HD54 CYL at this point (11.54am), and returned at 12noon.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Watkins, the Senior

Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number HD54 CYL, the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC069 vehicle registration number HD54 CYL be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition: where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12.08pm for a short break, the meeting re-convened at 12.20pm.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) advised Members that the next five vehicles were owned by Mr G Bianco who worked in partnership with his Son, and was present to speak on all of the applications.

LIC.26

Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr G Bianco of 30 Grosvenor Avenue, Kidderminster DY10 1SS, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number VX52 FNJ.

Mr Bianco spoke in support of the application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number VX52 FNJ at this point (12.29pm), and returned at 12.36pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Bianco, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number VX52 FNJ, the Committee decided that the application for renewal of the Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licence HC003 for Vehicle Registration Number VX52 FNJ be refused as it falls outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997: in particular, that the vehicle is 9 years and 7 months old, and that the committee considered that there were no grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.27 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr L Bianco of P&P Central Taxis, Unit G14 Paddington House, New Road, Kidderminster DY10 1AS, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number VN04 GHV.

Mr Bianco spoke in support of the application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number VN04 GHV at this point (12.48pm), and returned at 12.55pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Bianco, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number VN04 GHV, the Committee decided that subject to the following works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer within 21 days of this meeting:

- 1. the scratches and dents on the rear bumper to be repaired;**
- 2. the front bumper to be secured and touched up;**
- 3. the glue on the nearside rear back passenger seat to be taken off;**
- 4. the paint chips to be repaired on both rear light clusters; and**
- 5. the back Hackney Carriage plate to be replaced,**

that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC036 vehicle registration number VN04 GHV be granted, for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because, otherwise, on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition: where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.28 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr

L Bianco of P&P Central Taxis, Unit G14 Paddington House, New Road, Kidderminster DY10 1AS, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number SW05 GWE.

Mr Bianco spoke in support of the application.

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number SW05 GWE at this point (13.09pm), and returned at 13.14pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Bianco, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor’s Licence in respect of vehicle registration number SW05 GWE, the Committee decided that subject to the following works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer within 21 days of this meeting:

- 1. the leads on the front passenger seat well need pushing up and securing;**
- 2. the repair to both near side wheel arches to be properly resprayed; and**
- 3. the rear bumper be properly secured at the nearside rear wheel arch,**

that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor’s Licence HC046 vehicle registration number SW05 GWE be granted, for twelve months from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013 because, otherwise, on inspection of the vehicle the Committee found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was for the age of the vehicle presented in an exceptional condition: where the body work was very good and that the interior is good and clean, which gave the Committee grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.29

Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor’s Licence Beyond the Council’s adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor’s Licence made by Mr L Bianco of P&P Central Taxis, Unit G14 Paddington House, New Road, Kidderminster DY10 1AS, as it fell outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report relating to vehicle registration number DY52 NWZ.

Mr Bianco spoke in support of the application.

Agenda Item No. 4

Members of the Committee left the Civic Hall to inspect the vehicle registration number DY52 NWZ at this point (13.26pm), and returned at 13.31pm.

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and the Democratic Services Officer stayed in the meeting to deliberate their decision and Mr Bianco, the Senior Practitioner and Licensing Officer left the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number DY52 NWZ, the Committee decided that the application for renewal of the Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licence HC062 for Vehicle Registration Number DY52 NWZ be refused as it falls outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997 and in particular, that the vehicle is 9 years and 10 months old and that this and on inspection of the vehicle the Committee also found, in considering quality, safety and accessibility, that the vehicle was not presented in an exceptional condition: in particular,

- (1) there was a missing decal on the drivers side door;**
- (2) the interior head lining was soiled and dirty;**
- (3) the dashboard area was unclean; and**
- (4) there were exposed electrical wires in the boot,**

and therefore there were no grounds to depart from the Age Criteria Policy in relation to this application.

LIC.30 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) advised the Committee that the vehicle registration number SW05 GWF was not available for inspection as it was in the garage having work undertaken on it.

Decision: The agenda item be deferred to the next meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Committee in August 2012.

LIC.31 The Committee requested a review of the adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997) and requested the item be discussed at a future meeting.

Agreed: The item be placed on the Licensing and Environmental work programme.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1.44pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

3RD SEPTEMBER 2012

**Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence
Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)**

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council.
CONTACT OFFICER:	Niall McMenamin – 01527 548282 niall.mcmenamin@worcsregservices.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 - Council's Resolution on Age Policy 1997 Appendix 2 - Application for Vehicle Licence Appendix 3 - Garage Test/Inspection Form Appendix 4 - Licensing Officer Inspection Form

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application for the Renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr L Bianco of P & P Central Taxis, Unit G14 Paddington House, New Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 1AS, which falls outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 The application for renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence for Vehicle Registration Number SW05 GWF be refused as it falls outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles cease to be re-licensed with Wyre Forest District Council after seven years from the date of first registration.
- 3.2 The Council introduced the age limit policy on its Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles a number of years ago due to the poor and unreliable state of its licensed vehicles.

- 3.3 The Wyre Forest District Council Licensing Committee meeting on the 29th July 1997 resolved the following principles relating to the Age Criteria:

The Council's policy on age limits on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles be retained as:

- (a) only vehicles under the age of four years can be licensed for the first time; and*
- (b) seven years for the renewal of a Licence. However a vehicle would cease to be licensed after seven years from the date of first registration.*

Exceptions to the age limit are, London styled taxis (black cab type) and mini buses "Appendix 1"

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The policy is flexible and grants exception to the following classes of vehicle, London style Taxis and Mini-buses. These models were considered to be special cases because of their quality build providing greater durability.
- 4.2 The Council does not specify particular makes of vehicle which can be licensed as hackney carriages. It recognises that motor manufacturers continually improve standards of their product and new cars have additional safety equipment compared with older models.
- 4.3 The age of a vehicle is considered from the date of first registration with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, according to the registration document relating to the vehicle.
- 4.4 The Hackney Carriage plate number HC076 which is the subject of this application is a Skoda Octavia, registration number SW05 GWF which was first registered on the 22nd June 2005.
- 4.5 This matter was originally scheduled to be considered at the Licensing and Environmental Committee on 25th July 2012, however due to the fact that the vehicle was unavailable on that day, the decision was made by the committee to defer the whole matter to the next available meeting.
- 4.6 On the 8th June 2012 an application was received by Licensing Officers from Mr Bianco "**Appendix 2**".
- 4.7 The vehicle was examined on the 31st May 2012, at the council's vehicle testing Station, Green Street, Kidderminster where the mileage was recorded at 377838 and the vehicle was found to be mechanically sound. A copy of the Inspection Form is attached at "**Appendix 3**".

- 4.8 The vehicle was further inspected at Duke House by Licensing Officers, where it was found **not** to be of a suitable standard or quality due to a number of factors, these being the vehicles high mileage, the condition of the front and rear wings (scratches), the condition of the bonnet (scratches), the condition of the front and rear bumpers (scratches), the condition of the front and rear doors (scratches) and the condition of the sills (scratches). A vehicle which **is** of a suitable standard and quality may have provided grounds for it to be an exception to the current Wyre Forest District Council age policy. A copy of the inspection form is attached at “**Appendix 4**”.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Every case should be decided on its merits. The Council’s Policy is designed to assist with consistent decision making but Members are reminded that the Policy is set to guide, not bind, the Council.
- 6.2 Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, gives the local authority discretionary powers in relation to Hackney Carriage Proprietors’ Licences.

“Licensing of Hackney Carriages

Section 47

(1) A district council may attach to the grant of a licence of a hackney carriage under the Act of 1847 such conditions as the district council may reasonably consider necessary.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection, a district council may require any hackney carriage licensed by them under the Act of 1847 (Town Police Clauses Act 1847) to be of such design or appearance or bear such distinguishing marks as shall clearly identify it as a hackney carriage.

(3) Any person aggrieved by any conditions attached to such a licence may appeal to the Magistrate’s Court.”

- 6.3 In March 2010 the Department for Transport published

“Best Practice Guidance to Local Authorities in respect of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle licensing”.

In the Introduction it states:

“It is for individual authorities to reach their own decisions both on overall policies and on individual licensing matters, in light of their own views of the relevant considerations.”

VEHICLES – AGE LIMITS

“It is perfectly possible for an older vehicle to be in good condition. So the setting of an age limit beyond which a local authority will not license vehicles may be arbitrary and inappropriate. But a greater frequency of testing may be appropriate for older vehicles – for example, twice yearly tests for vehicles more than five years old.”

Wyre Forest Policy

- 6.4 Wyre Forest Council Policy is more stringent and requires all Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles to be tested twice per annum at the Council’s testing station.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no issues over Equality Impact Assessment.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The licensing of vehicles and drivers has the prime aim of protecting public safety and the vehicle licence conditions ensure that the public of Wyre Forest can use Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles in the knowledge that they are as safe as the Council can make them.
- 9.2 Taxis generally cover a high mileage throughout their years of public service. Wear and tear is considerable and vehicles require exchanging for newer models.
- 9.3 The Skoda Octavia Vehicle Registration Number SW05 GWF is:
- in excess of the seven year age policy (Seven years and one month).
 - not considered to be of the quality which would provide grounds to be an exception to the policy.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Director of Community Assets and Localism.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance.

5 Licensing Committee Meeting 29.7.97

Appendix 1

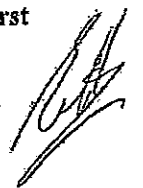
- (a) Wyre Forest Taxi Drivers' Association;
- (b) Mr. T. Owen of Holland, Regency and Albany Taxis, Kidderminster;
- (c) Mr. D. McCawley, Stourport Taxis;
- (d) Mr. V. Price, Taxi Proprietor;
- (e) Mr. G. Bianco, Mr. G. Sorocco, P. & P. Central Taxis, Kidderminster;
and
- (f) Mr. M. Young, Magnum Travel, Kidderminster.

APPENDIX 1

Replies were received from Wyre Forest Drivers' Association (which included Mr. V. Price's views) and Magnum Travel. The respective Taxi Trade views were included in the report.

RESOLVED that

- (i) this Authority continue to test all its licensed vehicles, irrespective of age, on three separate occasions during any period of twelve months. This would be in addition to the requirement of an MOT Certificate which the proprietor pays for at his/her garage. Tests continue to be conducted in (when Licence fee is paid) October and February in a twelve month period;
- (ii) this Authority continue to issue drivers' licences on a two year fixed date period;
- (iii) the proposal to reduce drivers' licence fees with an appropriate increase to vehicle licence fees be not adopted;
- (iv) the current policy of the Council be continued in that all new applicants for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers' Licence also drivers failing to renew their licences within seven days of the requisite date, and in other cases of an appropriate nature, have to take and successfully pass a Knowledge Test; and
- (v) the Council's current policy regarding age limits on its Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles be retained as:-
the age limits are:-
 - (a) only vehicles under the age of four years can be licensed for the first time; and
 - (b) seven years for the renewal of a Licence. However a vehicle would cease to be licensed after seven years from the date of first registration.



APPENDIX 1

Exceptions to the age limit were, London-styled taxis (black cab type), mini buses and Volvo 940 vehicles.

CM.194 EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraph 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CM.195 SUMMARY OF MINUTES

The following item was considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the Minutes relating to this item has been made as "Exempt Information" would be disclosed if the Minutes were published in full.

Incident Involving a Taxi Driver

The Committee received and noted an oral report from the Taxi Licensing Officer regarding an incident that had taken place over the preceding weekend.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting ended at 11.36 a.m.



**Vehicle Licence
Application
Hackney Carriage or
Private Hire Vehicle**

Worcestershire Hub
Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre
Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar Street,
Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1DA

Tel: 01562 732928
Email: worcestershirehub@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Web: www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk



K10S06032507

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence: 01/07/2012 – 30/06/2013
Private Hire Vehicle Licence : 01/08/2012 – 31/07/2013

VEHICLE DETAILS

Plate No (if applicable)	<input type="text" value="HC 76"/>	Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Registration No	<input type="text" value="SW05 GWF"/>	Model	<input type="text" value="SKODA OCTAVIA"/>		
Date of First Registration	<input type="text" value="22/06/2005"/>	Colour	<input type="text" value="BLUE"/>		
Make of Vehicle	<input type="text" value="SKODA"/>	Number of Passenger Seats 4 - 8 (This does not include the driver)	<input type="text" value="4"/>		

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name of Applicant
(company name, trading name or proprietor of
vehicle if not a company).

P & P Central Taxis
Unit G14 Paddington House
New Road, Kidderminster
Worcs DY10 1AS
Tel: 01562 822600 / 515131 / 825522

National Insurance Number

Business Address
(or home address if not a company)

Operating Address
(address from where the business is operated)

Business Telephone No/s

Mobile

I apply to licence the above vehicle as a

Hackney Carriage

Private Hire

RETURN YOUR FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND FEE TO:

Worcestershire Hub, Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre, Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar Street, Kidderminster, Worcs.
DY10 1DA

1/3



I enclose the fee of £396.00 for this vehicle

DECLARATION

I declare that the above vehicle is not licensed by any other authority and that the statements on this form are true.

Signature



Date

06/06/12

WARNING

You can be prosecuted for making a false statement in order to obtain a licence

STEP 1

How to apply for a licence:

- Answer the questions on this licence application form.
- Return it to the Worcestershire Hub, Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar street Kidderminster, Worcs., DY10 1DA

You will incur the following cost in order to begin your application:

Licence application: £396.00 (annual cost)

Please make all cheques payable to Wyre Forest District Council.

STEP 2

You will need to make an appointment for your vehicle to be tested on 01562 732596.

Once an appointment has been made, bring the following to the mechanical vehicle test:

- The licence fee receipt.
- Vehicle registration document (**logbook**).
- MOT certificate**.
- Your **insurance certificate** or insurance cover note.
- The **vehicle** you want to licence in a clean and tidy condition, inside and out.

(Please note your vehicle will not be tested without the appropriate paperwork)

Wyre Forest District Council may share this information with other departments within the Council and other bodies administering or auditing public funds for the prevention and detection of fraud, the investigation of any criminal offence or in the performance of its statutory duties for the exercise of public functions.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HUB

Receipt Number

CSA (sign)

Date

KICS06032S07 JAM 8/6/12

FOR OFFICE USE

Date Received

Date Vehicle Inspected

MOT Expiry Date

Plate No issued

Insurance Type

Public Hire

Private Hire

Insurance Expiry Date



Wyre Forest District Council

RESOURCES

Green Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1HA
Tel. 01562 732927 Fax. 01562 732904

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE INSPECTION FORM

Vehicle Registration No.: SW05 GWF Mileage: 377838
Plate No.: TY76 Seats: 4
Meter Serial No.: 50719 Mileage: _____

The above vehicle was today examined by a mechanic of Wyre Forest District Council's Garage at Green Street for compliance with the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Byelaws.

The condition of the vehicle was as follows:

PARTICULARS OF VEHICLE

1. Name of Owner: G. S. ROCCA
2. Address of Owner: 33 COMBESTON AVE, KIDD
3. Make: SKODA
4. Type: OCITAVIA
5. Horsepower: 1896cc Colour: BLU.
6. Expiry Date of Insurance Certificate: 30/09/12
7. Date of Issue of Ministry Certificate: _____
8. Issuing Garage: _____
9. Date of Original Registration: 22/06/05
10. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licence Details Displayed: Inside Outside
11. Statement of Fares Legibly Displayed Inside:
12. Road Tax Licence Displayed:

Renewal Fee Receipt No.	Receipt No.	Receipt No.
	(if tested within 24 hours of failure)	(if tested within 48 hours of failure)

	(✓)	No.
Inside Cab		
Seat Belts condition	✓	1
Cab floors, steps, covering	✓	2
Driving seat condition	✓	3
Other seats condition	✓	4
Mirrors (internal)	✓	5
View to Front	✓	6
Condition of glass (screens/windows)	✓	7
Windows – operation	✓	8
Screen wipers and washers	✓	9
Speedometer	✓	10
Horn	✓	11
Driving controls (pedal pads etc.)	✓	12
Steering wheel – free play	✓	13
Steering wheel – security condition	✓	14
Steering column	✓	15
Warning devices	✓	16
Park Brake control lever/switch	✓	17
Service Brake – excessive travel – operation	✓	18
Light switches – operation – security	✓	19
Interior lamps – operation	✓	20
Cab heater	✓	21
Statement of fares	✓	22
Plate number	✓	23
No smoking signs	✓	24
Meter-illuminate roof sign/tariff	✓	25
First aid kit	✓	26
Fire extinguisher	✓	27
Cab Exterior		
Bumpers – security – condition	✓	28
Body panels – condition – colour	✓	29
Doors – security – operation	✓	30
Mirrors	✓	31
Vehicle ramps – if required	✓	32
Fuel filler cap and seal	✓	33
Wipers – washers – condition – operation	✓	34
Headlights	✓	35
Sidelights – front and rear	✓	36
Fog lights	✓	37
Brake lights	✓	38
Indicators	✓	39
Hazard warning lights	✓	40
Reverse lights	✓	41
Number plates – condition – illumination	✓	42
Illuminated roof sign (Hackney Carriage only)	✓	43
Door licence number	✓	44
Rear licence plate – condition	✓	45

	(✓)	No.
Engine Compartment		
Engine and gearbox mountings	✓	46
Oil leaks	✓	47
Coolant leaks	✓	48
Exhaust - security – leaks	✓	49
Battery – security	✓	50
Brake master cylinder – security – leaks	✓	51
Under Vehicle		
Oil leaks	✓	52
Fuel tank and systems – security – leaks	✓	53
Exhaust system – security – leaks	✓	54
Suspension pins and bushes condition security	✓	55
Suspension units and sub frames – condition – security	✓	56
Spring units and sub frames – condition – security	✓	57
Shock absorbers – leaks – security	✓	58
Wheel bearings – excessive play	✓	59
Stub axles – excessive play	✓	60
Steering mechanism – play – security – leaks	✓	61
Clutch – operation – leaks	✓	62
Transmission – drive line – security – leaks	✓	63
Brakes		
Mechanical brake components	✓	64
Drums and linings	✓	65
Discs and pads	✓	66
Load sensing/anti-lock system	✓	67
Anti-lock – operation – warning	✓	68
Tyres		
Size	✓	69
Condition	✓	70
Tariff Meter	✓	71
Operation/Security	✓	71
Tread Wear: State tread depth left in mm	✓	72
N/S/F	7	
O/S/F	7	
N/S/R	6	
O/S/R	7	
SPARE	L	
Vehicle examined and found to be		
Fit for purpose		
Signature of person examining Vehicle.....	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Print name in capitals.....	J Turner	
Transport Manager		
Signature.....	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Print Name in Capitals.....	PHIPPS	
Date.....	31/5/12	

GJB / 04 / 07 / 2012 .

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE INSPECTION SHEET					
PLATE NUMBER:	HC 076		CAR REGISTRATION		SW05 GWF.
MAKE & MODEL	SKODA OCTAVIA.		ODOMETER READING:		385727.
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	DAMAGED	COMMENTS
OSF WING				✓	SCRATCHES
ROOF			✓		
BONNET				✓	SCRATCHES.
FRONT PANEL				✓	MARKS ETC.
FRONT BUMPER				✓	— " —
FRONT LAMPS		✓			
NSF WING				✓	SCRATCHES.
NSF DOOR				✓	MARKS ETC.
NSR DOOR				✓	— " —
NS BODY SILL				✓	SCUFFS.
REAR BUMPER				✓	— " —
REAR LAMPS		✓			
TAIL GATE/ BOOT LID			✓		
OSR WING				✓	SCRATCHES.
OS BODY SILL				✓	— " —
OS REAR DOOR				✓	— " —
OS FRONT DOOR					— " —
WINDOWS		✓			
MIRRORS		✓			
TYRES		✓			
FOR HIRE SIGN					?
TAX DISC	✓				
FRONT SEATS			✓		
REAR SEATS			✓		
GENERAL EXTERIOR				✓	
SIX MONTHLY CHECKS					
FILE HISTORY					
ACCIDENT HISTORY					

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

3RD SEPTEMBER 2012

**Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence
Beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)**

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council.
CONTACT OFFICER:	Niall McMenamin – 01527 548282 niall.mcmenamin@worcestershire.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 - Council's Resolution on Age Policy 1997 Appendix 2 - Application for Vehicle Licence Appendix 3 – Hackney Carriage Garage Inspection Form Appendix 4 – Licensing Officer Inspection Form Appendix 5 – Letter of Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application for the Renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence made by Mr R.E Ingle of Regency Vehicle Hire, 5 Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster, DY10 1QP, which falls outside of the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 The application for renewal of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence for Vehicle Registration Number FM04 FVW be refused as it falls outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles cease to be re-licensed with Wyre Forest District Council after seven years from the date of first registration.
- 3.2 The Council introduced the age limit policy on its Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles a number of years ago due to the poor and unreliable state of its licensed vehicles.
- 3.3 The Wyre Forest District Council Licensing Committee meeting on the 29th July 1997 resolved the following principles relating to the Age Criteria:

The Council's policy on age limits on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles be retained as:

- (a) only vehicles under the age of four years can be licensed for the first time; and*
- (b) seven years for the renewal of a Licence. However a vehicle would cease to be licensed after seven years from the date of first registration.*

*Exceptions to the age limit are, London styled taxis (black cab type) and mini buses "**Appendix 1**"*

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The policy is flexible and grants exception to the following classes of vehicle, London style Taxis and Mini-buses. These models were considered to be special cases because of their quality build providing greater durability.
- 4.2 The Council does not specify particular makes of vehicle which can be licensed as hackney carriages. It recognises that motor manufacturers continually improve standards of their product and new cars have additional safety equipment compared with older models.
- 4.3 The age of a vehicle is considered from the date of first registration with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, according to the registration document relating to the vehicle.
- 4.4 The Hackney Carriage plate number HC056 which is the subject of this application is a Vauxhall Vectra, registration number FM04 FVW which was first registered on the 26 July 2004.
- 4.5 On the 6 June 2012 an application was received by Licensing Officers from Mr R.E Ingle "**Appendix 2**".
- 4.6 The vehicle was examined at the council's vehicle testing Station in Green Street, Kidderminster where the mileage was recorded at 365149 and the vehicle was found to be mechanically sound. A copy of the Inspection Form is attached at "**Appendix 3**".
- 4.7 The vehicle was further inspected on 27 July 2012 at Duke House by Licensing Officers, where it was found **not** to be of a suitable standard or quality due to a number of factors, these being the vehicles high mileage, the condition of the front wheel arch (scratched), the condition of the roof (scratched), the condition of the bonnet (scratched), the front bumper near side rubbing strip held on with a tie, the interior condition of the doors (worn), the rear bumper off side rubbing strip ill fitted, the condition of the off side wing (scratches and paint chips), the condition of the front and rear off side doors (scratches), the condition of the

seats (worn) and the general condition of the interior (excessive wear). A vehicle which is of a suitable standard and quality may have provided grounds for it to be an exception to the current Wyre Forest District Council age policy. A copy of the inspection form is attached at **“Appendix 4”**.

- 4.8 A letter in support of this vehicle application has been submitted by the applicant and is attached at **“Appendix 5”**.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Every case should be decided on its merits. The Council's Policy is designed to assist with consistent decision making but Members are reminded that the Policy is set to guide, not bind, the Council.
- 6.2 Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, gives the local authority discretionary powers in relation to Hackney Carriage Proprietors' Licences.

“Licensing of Hackney Carriages

Section 47

(1) A district council may attach to the grant of a licence of a hackney carriage under the Act of 1847 such conditions as the district council may reasonably consider necessary.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection, a district council may require any hackney carriage licensed by them under the Act of 1847 (Town Police Clauses Act 1847) to be of such design or appearance or bear such distinguishing marks as shall clearly identify it as a hackney carriage.

(3) Any person aggrieved by any conditions attached to such a licence may appeal to the Magistrate's Court.”

- 6.3 In March 2010 the Department for Transport published

“Best Practice Guidance to Local Authorities in respect of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle licensing”.

In the Introduction it states:

“It is for individual authorities to reach their own decisions both on overall policies and on individual licensing matters, in light of their own views of the relevant considerations.”

VEHICLES – AGE LIMITS

“It is perfectly possible for an older vehicle to be in good condition. So the setting of an age limit beyond which a local authority will not license vehicles may be arbitrary and inappropriate. But a greater frequency of testing may be appropriate for older vehicles – for example, twice yearly tests for vehicles more than five years old.”

Wyre Forest Policy

- 6.4 Wyre Forest Council Policy is more stringent and requires all Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles to be tested twice per annum at the Council’s testing station.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no issues over Equality Impact Assessment.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The licensing of vehicles and drivers has the prime aim of protecting public safety and the vehicle licence conditions ensure that the public of Wyre Forest can use Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles in the knowledge that they are as safe as the Council can make them.
- 9.2 Taxis generally cover a high mileage throughout their years of public service. Wear and tear is considerable and vehicles require exchanging for newer models.
- 9.3 The Vauxhall Vectra, Vehicle Registration Number FM04 FVW is:
- in excess of the seven year age policy (seven years and eleven months)
 - not considered to be of the quality which would provide grounds to be an exception to the policy.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Director of Community Assets and Localism.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance.

5 Licensing Committee Meeting 29.7.97

Appendix 1

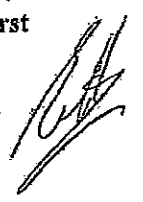
- (a) Wyre Forest Taxi Drivers' Association;
- (b) Mr. T. Owen of Holland, Regency and Albany Taxis, Kidderminster;
- (c) Mr. D. McCawley, Stourport Taxis;
- (d) Mr. V. Price, Taxi Proprietor-;
- (e) Mr. G. Bianco, Mr. G. Sorocco, P. & P. Central Taxis, Kidderminster;
and
- (f) Mr. M. Young, Magnum Travel, Kidderminster.

APPENDIX 1

Replies were received from Wyre Forest Drivers' Association (which included Mr. V. Price's views) and Magnum Travel. The respective Taxi Trade views were included in the report.

RESOLVED that

- (i) this Authority continue to test all its licensed vehicles, irrespective of age, on three separate occasions during any period of twelve months. This would be in addition to the requirement of an MOT Certificate which the proprietor pays for at his/her garage. Tests continue to be conducted in (when Licence fee is paid) October and February in a twelve month period;
- (ii) this Authority continue to issue drivers' licences on a two year fixed date period;
- (iii) the proposal to reduce drivers' licence fees with an appropriate increase to vehicle licence fees be not adopted;
- (iv) the current policy of the Council be continued in that all new applicants for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers' Licence also drivers failing to renew their licences within seven days of the requisite date, and in other cases of an appropriate nature, have to take and successfully pass a Knowledge Test; and
- (v) the Council's current policy regarding age limits on its Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles be retained as:-
the age limits are:-
 - (a) only vehicles under the age of four years can be licensed for the first time; and
 - (b) seven years for the renewal of a Licence. However a vehicle would ceased to be-licensed after seven years from the date of first registration.



APPENDIX 1

Exceptions to the age limit were, London-styled taxis (black cab type), mini buses and Volvo 940 vehicles.

CM.194 EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraph 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CM.195 SUMMARY OF MINUTES

The following item was considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the Minutes relating to this item has been made as "Exempt Information" would be disclosed if the Minutes were published in full.

Incident Involving a Taxi Driver

The Committee received and noted an oral report from the Taxi Licensing Officer regarding an incident that had taken place over the preceding weekend.



CHAIRMAN

The meeting ended at 11.36 a.m.

**Vehicle Licence
Application
Hackney Carriage or
Private Hire Vehicle**

Worcestershire Hub
Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre
Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar Street,
Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1DA

Tel: 01562 732928
Email: worcestershirehub@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Web: www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk



**Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence: 01/07/2012 – 30/06/2013
Private Hire Vehicle Licence : 01/08/2012 – 31/07/2013**

VEHICLE DETAILS

Plate No (if applicable)	<input type="text" value="H.C 056"/>	Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Registration No	<input type="text" value="FM 04 FVW"/>	Model	<input type="text" value="VECTRA"/>		
Date of First Registration	<input type="text" value="26-7-2004"/>	Colour	<input type="text" value="SILVER"/>		
Make of Vehicle	<input type="text" value="VAUXHALL"/>	Number of Passenger Seats 4 - 8 (This does not include the driver)	<input type="text" value="4"/>		

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name of Applicant (company name, trading name or proprietor of vehicle if not a company).	<input type="text" value="REGENCY VEHICLE HIRE"/>		
National Insurance Number	<input type="text"/>		
Business Address (or home address if not a company)	<input type="text" value="5 COMBETON TERRACE
KIDDERMINSTER
DY10 1QP"/>		
Operating Address (address from where the business is operated)	<input type="text"/>		
Business Telephone No/s	<input type="text" value="01562-66666"/>	Mobile	<input type="text"/>
I apply to licence the above vehicle as a	Hackney Carriage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Hire
			<input type="checkbox"/>

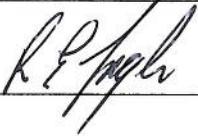
RETURN YOUR FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND FEE TO:
Worcestershire Hub, Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre, Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar Street, Kidderminster, Worcs.
DY10 1DA

I enclose the fee of £396.00 for this vehicle

DECLARATION

I declare that the above vehicle is not licensed by any other authority and that the statements on this form are true.

Signature



Date

3-6-2012

WARNING

You can be prosecuted for making a false statement in order to obtain a licence

STEP 1

How to apply for a licence:

- Answer the questions on this licence application form.
- Return it to the Worcestershire Hub, Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar street Kidderminster, Worcs., DY10 1DA

You will incur the following cost in order to begin your application:

Licence application: £396.00 (annual cost)

Please make all cheques payable to Wyre Forest District Council.

STEP 2

You will need to make an appointment for your vehicle to be tested on 01562 732596.

Once an appointment has been made, bring the following to the mechanical vehicle test:


- The **licence fee receipt**.
- Vehicle registration document (**logbook**).
- MOT certificate**.
- Your **insurance certificate** or insurance cover note.
- The **vehicle** you want to licence in a clean and tidy condition, inside and out.

(Please note your vehicle will not be tested without the appropriate paperwork)

Wyre Forest District Council may share this information with other departments within the Council and other bodies administering or auditing public funds for the prevention and detection of fraud, the investigation of any criminal offence or in the performance of its statutory duties for the exercise of public functions.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HUB

Receipt Number

101CS06032472

06/06/12

CSA (sign)

Date

FOR OFFICE USE

Date Received

Date Vehicle Inspected

MOT Expiry Date

Plate No issued

Insurance Type

Public Hire

Private Hire

Insurance Expiry Date



Wyre Forest District Council

RESOURCES

Green Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1HA
Tel. 01562 732927 Fax. 01562 732904

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE INSPECTION FORM

Vehicle Registration No.: FM04 FVW Mileage: 365 149
Plate No.: TXS6 Seats: 4
Meter Serial No.: 126707 Mileage: _____

The above vehicle was today examined by a mechanic of Wyre Forest District Council's Garage at Green Street for compliance with the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Byelaws.

The condition of the vehicle was as follows:

PARTICULARS OF VEHICLE

1. Name of Owner: REGENCY
2. Address of Owner: COMBLEDON RD. KID
3. Make: VAUXHALL
4. Type: VECTRA
5. Horsepower: 1995CC Colour: SILVER
6. Expiry Date of Insurance Certificate: 29/07/12
7. Date of Issue of Ministry Certificate: 23/06/11
8. Issuing Garage: HAS AT DIXON ST. KID
9. Date of Original Registration: 26/07/04
10. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licence Details Displayed: Inside / Outside /
11. Statement of Fares Legibly Displayed Inside: /
12. Road Tax Licence Displayed: /

Renewal Fee Receipt No.

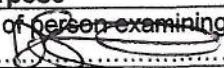
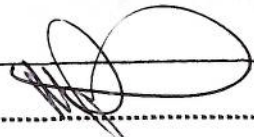
Receipt No.

Receipt No.

(if tested within 24 hours of failure)

(if tested within 48 hours of failure)

	(✓)	No.
Inside Cab		
Seat Belts condition	/	1
Cab floors, steps, covering	/	2
Driving seat condition	/	3
Other seats condition	/	4
Mirrors (internal)	/	5
View to Front	/	6
Condition of glass (screens/windows)	/	7
Windows – operation	/	8
Screen wipers and washers	/	9
Speedometer	/	10
Horn	/	11
Driving controls (pedal pads etc.)	/	12
Steering wheel – free play	/	13
Steering wheel – security condition	/	14
Steering column	/	15
Warning devices	/	16
Park Brake control lever/switch	/	17
Service Brake – excessive travel – operation	/	18
Light switches – operation – security	/	19
Interior lamps – operation	/	20
Cab heater	/	21
Statement of fares	/	22
Plate number	/	23
No smoking signs	/	24
Meter-illuminate roof sign/tariff	/	25
First aid kit	/	26
Fire extinguisher	/	27
Cab Exterior		
Bumpers – security – condition	/	28
Body panels – condition – colour	/	29
Doors – security – operation	/	30
Mirrors	/	31
Vehicle ramps – if required	/	32
Fuel filler cap and seal	/	33
Wipers – washers – condition – operation	/	34
Headlights	/	35
Sidelights – front and rear	/	36
Fog lights	/	37
Brake lights	/	38
Indicators	/	39
Hazard warning lights	/	40
Reverse lights	/	41
Number plates – condition – illumination	/	42
Illuminated roof sign (Hackney Carriage only)	/	43
Door licence number	/	44
Rear licence plate – condition	/	45

	(✓)	No.		
Engine Compartment				
Engine and gearbox mountings	/	46		
Oil leaks	/	47		
Coolant leaks	/	48		
Exhaust - security – leaks	/	49		
Battery – security	/	50		
Brake master cylinder – security – leaks	/	51		
Under Vehicle				
Oil leaks	/	52		
Fuel tank and systems – security – leaks	/	53		
Exhaust system – security – leaks	/	54		
Suspension pins and bushes condition security	/	55		
Suspension units and sub frames – condition – security	/	56		
Spring units and sub frames – condition – security	/	57		
Shock absorbers – leaks – security	/	58		
Wheel bearings – excessive play	/	59		
Stub axles – excessive play	/	60		
Steering mechanism – play – security – leaks	/	61		
Clutch – operation – leaks	/	62		
Transmission – drive line – security – leaks	/	63		
Brakes				
Mechanical brake components	/	64		
Drums and linings	/	65		
Discs and pads	/	66		
Load sensing/anti-lock system	/	67		
Anti-lock – operation – warning	/	68		
Tyres				
Size	/	69		
Condition	/	70		
Tariff Meter	/	71		
Operation/Security	/			
Tread Wear: State tread depth left in mm	/	72		
N/S/F	O/S/F	N/S/R	O/S/R	SPARE
Vehicle examined and found to be Fit for purpose				
Signature of person examining Vehicle..... 				
Print name in capitals..... <u>D. S. S. S. S. S.</u>				
never not needed				
Transport Manager Signature 				
Print Name in Capitals <u>P. H. P. S.</u>				
Date				

1400 Hours
27/07/2012.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE INSPECTION SHEET

PLATE NUMBER:	56		CAR REGISTRATION	FM04 FVW	
MAKE & MODEL	VAUXHALL VECTRA.		ODOMETER READING:	371534	
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	DAMAGED	COMMENTS
OSF WING				✓	SCRATCH OVER R/O/S WHEEL ARCH.
ROOF			✓	✓	SCRATCHES TO PAINTWORK.
BONNET				✓	SCRATCHES IN CENTRE.
FRONT PANEL			✓		F/N/S ROBBING STRIP HELPS ON WITH 'TIE'!
FRONT BUMPER			✓		
FRONT LAMPS		✓			
NSF WING		✓			
NSF DOOR		✓			DOOR INTERIOR SHOWS WEAR.
NSR DOOR		✓			AS ABOVE.
NS BODY SILL			✓		
REAR BUMPER			✓		ROBBING STRIP AT R/O/S ILL FITTING.
REAR LAMPS		✓			
TAIL GATE/ BOOT LID			✓		SCRATCHES AND PAINT CHIPS - FUEL CAP.
OSR WING			✓		
OS BODY SILL			✓		
OS REAR DOOR			✓		PAINT SCRATCHES BELOW R/O/S WINDOW.
OS FRONT DOOR			✓		PAINT SCRATCHES.
WINDOWS		✓			
MIRRORS		✓			
TYRES		✓			
FOR HIRE SIGN		✓			
TAX DISC		✓			
FRONT SEATS			✓		WEAR +
REAR SEATS			✓		WEAR.
GENERAL EXTERIOR			✓		WEAR AND TEAR EVIDENT.
SIX MONTHLY CHECKS					
FILE HISTORY					
ACCIDENT HISTORY					

**Regency Vehicle Hire
5 Comberton Terrace
Kidderminster
Tel: 01562 66666**

Niall McMenamin
Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Dear Mr McMenamin,

Re: Hackney Carriage Numbers 043, 056, 057, 067. (Regency Vehicle Hire)
001, 029, 053, 075. (Albany Taxis)
07 (Holland Taxis)

I write in support of the application to licence the above vehicles beyond the 7 year age policy of Wyre Forest District Council.

Although the above applications are made from three individual businesses in reality those businesses operate together under the umbrella of Regency Vehicle Hire. You will also have received applications from individual licence holders who also operate within Regency Vehicle Hire and those individuals have requested that I write in support of their applications as have the proprietors of Central Taxis.

Under the Council's 1997 Resolution for Taxis a hackney carriage may be licensed beyond the Council's 7 year age limit policy subject to satisfactory in inspection at the Council's depot and approval of the Licensing and Environmental Committee.

Department for Transport guidelines suggest that setting an age limit to taxis may be arbitrary and inappropriate.

Taxi proprietors and also Council's have a duty of care to provide a fleet of Hackney Carriage's that can be accessed for immediate hire by all disabled people. Many disabled people can only access saloon cars and therefore not to provide saloon cars for immediate hire can be seen as discriminatory.

Existing sole proprietors of saloon car hackney carriage's will be unable to afford the high cost of changing their vehicles to wheelchair accessible vehicles and therefore in order to remain in the trade they will be forced to purchase private hire vehicles and will be reliant on the larger fleet owners for employment so losing their independence. The larger taxi businesses will obviously become more dominant which is the opposite of the rationale to the Council's deregulation plan which sought to increase competition.

Currently the Law Commission have produced a consultation document regarding the future legislation of taxis, this consultation period ends 10th August, 2012 and will then be put before Parliament as a bill in November, 2013.

Perhaps it would be prudent to retain the status quo until it is clear what the Government intends for the future of our industry.