

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

10.00am, Friday, 7 October 2016

Applications for New Private Hire Car Vehicle Licences

Item number	6.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive Summary

The Committee is asked to consider applications for two new Private Hire Vehicle Licences which fall outwith agreed policy with respect to the construction of the vehicles.

Applications for New Private Hire Car Vehicle Licences

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 agrees to grant the licences, subject to a condition that the vehicle will only be used for contract work involving schoolchildren or Social Work clients who require wheelchairs, and will not be used as a Private Hire Car to undertake other bookings.

2. Background

- 2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council's Licensing Conditions for Taxis, Private Hire Cars, Taxi Drivers and Private Hire Car Drivers regulate the construction of any vehicle submitted for licensing.
- 2.2 Condition 258 states "A vehicle must have at least 4 doors excluding any doors at the rear of the vehicle".
- 2.3 Condition 260 states: "The doors and doorways must be of such construction so as to permit a reasonably unrestricted access for passengers".

3. Main report

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council has received applications for new Private Hire Car Licences which fall outwith agreed policy with respect to the construction of the vehicles.
- 3.2 The vehicles each have only one sliding door on the nearside, in addition to two rear door which allow wheelchair access.
- 3.3 Police Scotland has previously supported similar applications for vehicles which are used for schools contracts, however the vehicles in those cases had four doors as required by Condition 258.
- 3.4 The Taxi Examination Centre has inspected the vehicles in question. On the basis that the applicant has stated that the vehicles will be used solely for private contract work for the City of Edinburgh Council's special needs schools and social work transport, the vehicle will not carry a meter and will not convey fare paying passengers, the Taxi Examination Centre would have no objection to the granting of the licences (Appendix 3).

3.5 The applicant has been invited to attend.

4. Measures of success

4.1 Not relevant, as decisions on individual licences have to be considered on their own merits.

5. Financial impact

5.1 None.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 The process outlined takes account of the relevant statutory provisions.

6.2 The applicant has a right of appeal against any decision made. The appeal lies to the Sheriff Court

7. Equalities impact

7.1 There is no equalities impact arising from the contents of this report.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 None

10. Background reading/external references

Susan Mooney

Head of Housing and Regulatory Services

Contact: Andrew Mitchell, Regulatory Services Manager

E-mail: andrew.mitchell@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 5822

11. Links

Coalition Pledges	N/A
Council Priorities	N/A
Single Outcome Agreement	N/A
Appendices	Appendix 1 : Licence application forms Appendix 2 : Letters from applicant dated 12 July 2016 Appendix 3: Reports from Taxi Examination Centre