

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

25 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

APPLICATION TO LICENCE PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the sub-committee to consider an application to grant a licence for a private hire vehicle.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 None

3. Background

- 3.1 It is the duty of the Local Authority to determine applications made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and Town Police Clauses Act 1847. Applications which fall outside the policy guidelines are referred to a Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Application is made by Forge Travel Limited, to licence a Volkswagen Transporter vehicle registration number GJ17 OCS as a private hire vehicle to seat 8 persons.

- 4.2 The vehicle is pre-owned and was first registered at the DVLA on 28 March 2017.

- 4.3 The application falls outside the Private Hire Vehicle Policy approved by the Licensing Committee. The vehicle is not wheelchair accessible, but there are specific policy guidelines in respect of the first licensing of private hire vehicles which fall outside policy guidelines, which are set out below. For Members' information there is no service history on this vehicle as the requirement for a service has not yet been reached. An enforcement officer viewed the vehicle on 14 September 2018 and the vehicle was presented in good condition with the mileage at 19959.

4.4 Policy Guidelines

The vehicle policy applicable to this application was approved by the Licensing Committee on 10 March 2008. The relevant extract from the policy is as follows:

“(Policy 2.1) Applications for the first licensing of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle should be submitted to the Council within 14 days of the first registration of

the vehicle at the DVLA. The mileage at the time of application should be no greater than 500 miles. The applicant may be the second or a subsequent registered keeper but the applicant must demonstrate that there is no more than 14 days between the first registration and transfer to the applicant's name. Applications will normally be dealt with under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

(Policy 2.2) Applications for the first licensing of vehicles falling outside the above policy guidelines will normally be refused but a relaxation of the policy may be considered in exceptional circumstances. The general guidelines for relaxation of the policy are as follows but each case will be dealt with on its merits:

(Policy 2.2.5) A relaxation of the policy will also be considered in exceptional circumstances for applications relating to the first licensing of private hire vehicles. The Council does not seek to limit or define a particular vehicle which is suitable but will adhere to the minimum standards for the size of seats and legroom etc which are available on request. Irrespective of the age of the vehicle it must be capable of satisfying the general licensing conditions and be fit for purpose as a private hire vehicle in terms of passenger safety and comfort. Each application will be reported to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination on its merits having regard to the following criteria:

- That the vehicle presented is in an exceptional condition in relation to its exterior and interior appearance with no evidence of defects, chips, marks or other evidence of unreasonable wear and tear or damage.*
- That the vehicle presented offers an exceptional standard of safety and comfort for passengers in terms of features offered for example ABS, passenger airbags and ability to meet current requirements on emissions testing.*
- That the application includes evidence that the vehicle has been serviced at the intervals recommended by the manufacturer and at an approved garage. Other relevant documentations such as an MOT certificate should also be provided.*

(Policy 2.4) All applicants should be satisfied that they can meet all current policy requirements before submitting an application and are advised that they submit an application which falls outside the above policy guidelines at their own risk. Acceptance of an application does not infer that it will be granted. Applicants are strongly advised not to purchase a vehicle or make any other financial commitment until the application is determined."

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 None

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 This vehicle is not for wheelchair use. There are no other implications in relation to age; disability; gender and transgender; race; religion or belief and non-belief; sexual orientation.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 Prevention: The Council is a regulatory body with responsibility for the safety of vehicles, drivers and operators through pre-licensing guidelines and checks, vehicle and driver testing and ongoing compliance and enforcement. Each case will be determined on its merits.

Collaboration: pre-licensing checks and testing are subject to internal and external agency input for example, Home Office, Disclosure and Barring Services, Joint Fleet Services.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 None for the authority

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to determine the application having regard to the information contained within this report.

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Background documents

Private Hire Vehicle Application
Private Hire Vehicle Policy Guidelines