

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

1 MARCH 2016

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

APPLICATION TO LICENCE PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To ask the sub-committee to consider an application to grant a licence for a private hire vehicle.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 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 Paul Brain, to licence a Vauxhall Vivaro Minibus registration number VU12 TYC as a private hire vehicle to seat 8 persons. The application states the vehicle is a wheelchair accessible vehicle with ramp access only and no tail lift fitted. A vehicle maintenance report has been provided. The vehicle mileage on the last maintenance report on 17 September 2015 was 61034 miles.
- 4.2 The vehicle is pre-owned and was first registered at the DVLA on 1 May 2012.
- 4.3 The application falls outside the Private Hire Vehicle Policy approved by the Licensing Committee.
- 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 2.2.3) In order to ensure that customers can hire taxis with the minimum delay and inconvenience, the policy may be relaxed to allow the licensing of wheelchair accessible hackney carriage or private hire vehicles up to three years old on application, provided that a full service history and safety certification, including a satisfactory conversion certification is provided with the application and the vehicle can satisfy the general licensing requirements. Applications of this type will normally be dealt with under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

(Policy 2.2.4) The licensee of any vehicle licensed under the Council's special policy for wheelchair accessible vehicles must ensure that the vehicle is wheelchair accessible at all times and carry such ramps etc that are necessary. The maximum seating capacity of the vehicle will be specified in the licence and must include provision for at least one wheelchair."

(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 & Procedure Rules.

5.1 None

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 This vehicle is 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. Financial Implications.

7.1 None for the Authority.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 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