

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

TAXI COMMITTEE

15TH MARCH, 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

LICENSING OF VOLKSWAGEN EURO CAB

PURPOSE

1. To consider whether the Volkswagen Eurocab should be licensed as a hackney carriage.

BACKGROUND

2. The former Legal and Property Committee resolved on the 13 September 1989, that no vehicle shall be licensed as a hackney carriage vehicle unless such vehicle is a purpose built hackney carriage and is adapted to carry invalid passengers. The Committee also decided that all existing saloon cars licensed as hackney carriages should be re-licensed until they reach the age of 10 years old.
3. At that time only two vehicles met this criteria, the FX4 (Black Cab) and the Metro Cab.
4. On 24 March 1993 the Committee approved, on the recommendation of the then Licensing Sub-Committee, that the Vauxhall Midi-Cab could be licensed as a hackney carriage.
5. On the 23 November 1995 the Sub-Committee resolved that the Jubilee Taxi could be licensed as a hackney carriage.
6. On the 21 October 1996 the Sub-Committee approved the Transit Euro 2000 Cab to be licensed as a hackney carriage vehicle.
7. On the 23 July 1997 the Sub-Committee approved the Fiat Euro Cab 2000 to be licensed as a hackney carriage.
8. Mr Amrik Singh of White Star Taxis has made application for the Volkswagen Eurocab to be considered for licence as a hackney carriage. This vehicle can carry up to seven passengers. Attached to this report as Appendix 1 is a brochure with the specifications of the vehicle.

9. Lister Road garage have inspected the Volkswagen Eurocab and have confirmed that it meets the authority's taxi criteria.
10. The Volkswagen Eurocab will be available for the Committee to inspect on the member's car park at approximately 5.15 pm.
11. This application falls within the Council's responsibility for licensing as a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

PROPOSAL

12. That the Committee consider whether the Volkswagen Eurocab should be licensed as a hackney carriage.

FINANCE

13. There are no financial implications.

LAW

14. The law relating to hackney carriages is governed by the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and the Transport Act, 1985.
15. The Council may from time to time licence hackney carriages of any kind or description adapted for the carriage of passengers.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

16. This report takes into account the Council's policy for equal opportunities.
17. The licensing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers will impact on children and young people through their transportation in licensed vehicles.
18. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

19. That the Committee consider the licensing of the Volkswagen Eurocab as a hackney carriage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

20. None.

John P. ...

.....
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

Contact Officer: Mrs J Elliott - Ext 5377