

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director People and Places	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	10 March 2010

## HACKNEY PLATE ALLOCATION

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the availability of a Hackney Plate and provide an opportunity to determine its allocation by way of a tombola style draw.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. It is recommended that the available Hackney Plate be allocated to an appropriate operator following a 'tombola' style draw of all interested parties and subject to a satisfactory application that meets the Councils conditions for the issue of a Hackney Plate from the 'winning' interested party.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Council has a total of 37 Hackney Plates available for allocation to operators who satisfy the Councils hackney carriage conditions. Currently 36 hackney plates are allocated and in use. In late 2008 the Council revoked the currently available Hackney Licence from its holder due to them failing to renew the licence in a timely manner following unreported accident damage to the vehicle.
4. At a meeting of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee on 11 March 2009 Members received a report indentifying a hackney plate that had become available for reallocation and Members resolved to use a 'tombola' style process to reallocate the hackney plate to a suitable applicant. The previous holder of the Hackney Licence was seeking to persue legal action against the Council for its action in revoking the licence and hence this has delayed its reallocation until now.
5. The Councils Public Protection Team in consultation with the Head of Governance have invited all existing persons holding a current Chorley taxi drivers licence to express their interest in making a full application for the hackney plate. This was done by way of a pre requisite questionnaire and all interested parties who meet the prerequisites are presented by way of sealed envelope for the 'tombola' draw.
6. The Chair of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee is invited to conduct a tombola style draw from all the sealed applicants who have met the Councils prerequisites.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### (If the recommendations are accepted)

7. To ensure a fair and open allocation of a hackney plate

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. Withdrawing the plate from availability was rejected on the basis of the recent Taxi Unmet Demand Survey which concluded that the Council should consider retaining the current level

of hackney plates.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

## BACKGROUND

10. The Council operates a Hackney Carriage licensing service on the basis of a restricted number of Hackney Plates being available. The current number of plates allocated is 36 with an additional single plate now available for allocation.
11. The Licensing and Public Safety Committee have previously determined that the Council should allocate this plate by way of a tombola style draw.
12. Expressions of interest in applying for the plate have been received from a total of 24 persons by way of a postal prerequisite application stage which was conducted by the Councils Public Protection Team in consultation with the Councils Head of Governance.
13. Invitations to apply were sent to all existing Chorley Council taxi driver licence holders with a closing date of 5pm Wednesday 3 February 2010.
14. Following the closing date the expressions of interest were evaluated by the Head of Environment, Public Protection Team Leader with two colleagues from the Councils Shared Service Procurement Team as observers.
15. Appendix A highlights the 23 expressions of interest received and indicates the 8 applicants who have met the evaluation criteria and will go forward into the tombola style draw.
16. Appendix B is a copy of the expressions of interest criteria that were determined and used to evaluate the expressions of interest received. A copy of these criteria was sent to all Chorley Council Taxi Driver Licence holders.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

17. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	√
Legal	√	No significant implications in this area	

JAMIE CARSON  
DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

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