

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services	Licensing and Safety Committee	17/01/07

ALLOCATION OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- For Members to approve a selection procedure for the issue of seven additional hackney carriage licences.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report is not relevant to any of the key corporate priorities of the Council.

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	
Reputation	4	Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People	4	Other	

- The approved selection procedure set by this Committee must be in accordance with previously agreed criteria, open to scrutiny, impartial and transparent.

BACKGROUND

- At a meeting of this Committee on 22 November 2006 the criteria was amended and agreed for the issue of seven additional hackney carriage licences. Following this decision the amended criteria, an application form and guidance was sent to all holders of "taxi" licences within the Borough.
- It is anticipated that there will be more than seven applications that meet the criteria.
- It is suggested that the first stage of selecting applicants for a Committee interview is completed by officers. Applicants must meet the criteria in full to progress to an interview. To assist officers in selecting the successful applicants for interview a "criteria matching" checklist is attached to the report for Members to note.
- For the interview stage of selection it is suggested that this Committee appoints a smaller Sub-Committee.

9. It is anticipated that the Sub-Committee will interview those applicants who meet the criteria in full in February 2007 with a view to issuing the licences from 1 April 2007.
10. A list of pre-prepared questions will be given to the Sub-Committee in addition to any questions that they may feel relevant to any individual
11. It is suggested that licensing officers should be present at the meetings to answer any questions that arise and a representative of the local disability forum will be invited to attend.
12. A licence for a wheelchair accessible vehicle has previously been issued with an additional licence condition, namely"This licence is issued specifically in respect of a vehicle constructed or adapted for the carriage of disabled persons and once granted, the licensed vehicle and any replacement vehicle must:
 - i) in the opinion of the Council be suitable for the carriage of disabled persons;
 - ii) at all times comply with the specification guidelines set down by the Council and for the time being in force: and/or
 - iii) comply with any regulations that may be made by the secretary of state under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995".

It is suggested that this condition is also applied to the seven additional licences with the addition of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 at iii

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

13. N/A

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

14. N/A

RECOMMENDATION(S)

15. That the Committee sets in place a procedure for selecting the seven successful applicants based upon the agreed criteria.

ANDREW DOCHERTY
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Keith Ogden	5163	18 December 2006	LEGREP/93832LM