

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Corporate Governance	Licensing & Safety Committee	2 April 2008

## ALLOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE PLATE

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- Members are asked to consider the contents of the report and approve a method to issue one Hackney Carriage licence.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members are asked to approve the contents of this report and to delegate the administrative process to the Licensing Manager who will report back to the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee as necessary.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Council at present restrict the number of Hackney Carriage vehicle licences; at the present time thirty-seven are issued. One of the Hackney Carriage vehicle licences has now returned to the Council as the proprietor failed to renew the licence within the prescribed period. Members are now asked to consider methods to re-allocate the Hackney Carriage vehicle licence that will best serve the Hackney Carriage trade and the taxi travelling public.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 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	4	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

- As Members will be aware that the Council has restricted the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences it issues. The holders of Hackney carriage licences are responsible for the maintenance of the licence by way of its renewal at a four, six or twelve monthly interval depending on the age of the vehicle it is attached to.

6. In order to assist proprietors in the process of renewal of their Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence, the licensing office send reminder letters out to the proprietor approximately four weeks prior to the date of its expiry. This is a courtesy reminder and the licensing office provide this service to both the Hackney Carriage and the Private Hire trade. Members are reminded that there is no statutory requirement for a licensing authority to provide this service.
7. The licence relating to hackney Carriage number 9 was due to expire on 31 October 2007 and the proprietor was sent a renewal letter on the 20 September 2007 giving 41 days notice to renew the licence. The present licensing system would allow the renewal of that licence at any time prior to its expiry once the renewal letter had been sent. There was no application made to renew this licence prior to its expiry, the licence has therefore lapsed. In order for a Hackney Carriage vehicle licence to be renewed it must by virtue of its allocation be a valid licence. Should a proprietor fail to renew the licence, the provision of that licence will be the responsibility of the Council to grant the licence to any person who can fulfil the criteria attached to the an application for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence and pay the required fee.
8. As the Council maintains a restriction to the number of Hackney Carriage vehicle licences within the borough, Hackney Carriage vehicle licence do command an intrinsic value which can be realised should a proprietor wish to transfer such a licence and vehicle. It is therefore appropriate that special measures are taken when allocating a Hackney Carriage vehicle licence that are available in a fair and transparent way. The Council have at present received eleven expressions of interest with regard to the allocation of Hackney Carriage vehicle licence number nine and the Council does not maintain a waiting list for Hackney Carriage vehicle licences.
9. It would in this instance for the allocation of one Hackney Carriage vehicle licence be appropriate to adopt those conditions and criteria that were recommended by the Licensing and Safety Committee in 2007 for the issue of seven Hackney Carriage vehicle licences.
10. However further consideration to point 9g which refers to 'owner / drivers', Members may wish to consider that this be replaced by Hackney Carriage driver licence holders, licensed with Chorley Council for more than two years' as a condition of application. This would offer up the possibility of a new proprietor within the Hackney taxi trade within the borough and would by virtue of the length of time he / she has held the licence eliminate the need to interview those applicants who meet the essential criteria.
11. This would facilitate selection by way of a tombola type draw, with a second draw serving as a back up should the first drawn applicant fail to meet the application requirements ie not provide a suitable vehicle by a specified time, pay the fee. The draw would be made at the next Licensing & Safety Committee meeting. This would ease the administrative burden of interviewing applicants to ensure suitability as part of the selection criteria, contained at 10 of attached document.
12. The document 'A Guidance to Persons Interested in Obtaining a hackney Carriage Licence (2007)' is attached as appendix 1.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	4	No significant implications in this area	

## COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

14. No comments

ANDREW DOCHERTY  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Stephen Culleton	5665	17 March 2008	LEGREP/1803LM1