

Present: Councillor Kathleen Brothwell (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Loraine Woolley, Councillor Biff Bean,
Councillor Fay Smith, Councillor Ralph Toofany,
Councillor Paul Gowen and Councillor Pat Vaughan and
Councillor Jackie Kirk (substituted for Councillor Adrianna McNulty)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Ronald Hills, Councillor Adrianna McNulty,
Councillor Keith Weaver, Councillor Andy Kerry and
Councillor Gill Clayton-Hewson

24. Confirmation of Minutes - 25 January 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 be confirmed.

25. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

26. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire minutes of previous meetings - 9 February 2017 and 6 April 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Sub-Committee held on 9 February 2017 and 6 April 2017 be confirmed.

27. Private Hire Specialist Vehicle - Handsome Cabs (2011) Lincoln Ltd

The Licensing Officer:

- (a) presented the report, setting out a request received from Handsome Cabs Ltd to seek permission to licence a Lamborghini Huracan as a private hire vehicle for the carriage of one passenger only.
- (b) outlined the policy and vehicle specifications as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 of the report.
- (c) highlighted similar applications and requests previously considered by the Licensing Committee.
- (d) set out a number of conditions that were recommended to be applied should the Committee be minded to grant the licence.
- (e) highlighted that there was an exemption contained within the Policy where if an application was made for a vehicle wishing to carry less than four passengers, its suitability to be licensed would be determined on its own merits.
- (f) invited members' questions and comments.

Members asked the following questions, made the following comments and received the relevant response.

Members were interested to know why such a high powered and expensive vehicle was being proposed for use as a private hire vehicle, especially given that it could only carry one passenger. They also queried the business model of using such a vehicle in this way, anticipating any profit margin to be relatively low.

The applicant reported that requests for this type of vehicle had been received by his customers and that a private hire licence had been granted to a similar vehicle elsewhere in the country. He outlined that a premium would be attached to the vehicle, but that the vehicle itself would generate lots of interest both for the company but also for the area. For a person hiring a similar vehicle and driving it themselves would incur an expensive deposit, a rental charge and high insurance premiums, whereas this model would ensure that a driver was provided with the only cost to the customer being the private hire fee.

In enquiring as to whether the vehicle would be used for weddings if the licence was granted, the Licensing Officer confirmed that vehicles being used in connection with a wedding were exempted from private hire provisions by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Members asked whether any fees or charges had been provisionally set for hiring the vehicle. The applicant confirmed that no fees or charges had been set at present. The Licensing Officer explained that the operator could set whatever fees and charges it deemed necessary, but it would be obliged to inform the Licensing Authority of any fees and charges attached to the vehicle when used for the purpose of private hire.

Concerned about what precedent granting this licence may set, Members asked whether a temporary licence could be granted. The Licensing Officer reminded Members of the applicant's right to appeal the Committee's decision to the Magistrate's Court and explained that the licence would be renewed after one year in any case. In addition, if Members had any concerns regarding this or any licence, a district council could suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a vehicle licence on certain grounds as stated in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The meeting was adjourned at this stage of proceedings to enable members to inspect the vehicle.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Licensing Committee departs from its current policy to allow Handsome Cabs permission to licence a Lamborghini Haracan as a private hire vehicle for restricted private hire use.
2. the following conditions be attached to the licence:
 - this vehicle being of a suitable size, type and design as approved by the City of Lincoln Council on 14 June 2017, shall be used only for use as a private hire vehicle for chauffeur services which are connected to special occasions when the hirer has specifically requested this vehicle;
 - the City of Lincoln Council shall provide the vehicle with two plates indicating the private hire vehicle licence number of that vehicle, both of which shall be kept in the vehicle at all times when being

- used as a private hire vehicle and will be shown to the hirer/passenger upon their request;
- the person to whom a licence is granted shall ensure the notice issued by the City of Lincoln Council stating the private hire vehicle plate number, registration, date vehicle tested and date on which retesting of vehicle is due shall be kept in the vehicle at all times when being used as a private hire vehicle and will be shown to the hirer/passenger upon their request;
 - the person to whom a licence is granted shall after the issue of this licence and during its currency communicate in writing to the licensing team of the Licensing Authority a list of the private hire drivers who will be driving this vehicle for private hire use;
 - the person to whom a licence is granted shall ensure that all drivers of this vehicle who will be driving this vehicle for private hire use, have undertaken specific driver training as approved by the Licensing Authority's Licensing Manager and Chair/Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee.
3. delegate to officers authorised under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the power to licence additional or replacement vehicles for specialist use by these proprietors and apply the conditions set out above.
4. delegate to officers authorised under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the power to licence specialist vehicles for restricted private hire use and to apply specialist conditions.

Reasons to deviate from the Council's Policy

1. The Committee accepted the reasons and motives behind the proposal.
2. The Committee recognised that it had granted similar applications previously.
3. The conditions of the licence satisfied any concerns raised by members of the Committee.
4. The delegations put in place were appropriate to be able to assess any subsequent applications from the proprietor or comparable applications from other vehicle proprietors.