

REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Charlie Dennis

DATE: 26 February 2018

REPORT OF: Licensing Officer

SUBJECT: Request for a licence and small plate for a private hire vehicle Rouch Mustang GT

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regulatory & Appeals Committee is asked to consider whether to refuse or grant the requests.

1. PURPOSE

To consider the grant of a private hire vehicle licence for a Rouch Mustang GT that is over 5 years old and approval for a small plate.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council's requirements on age of vehicles is set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, at paragraph 5.2 on page 16.

5.2 Age of Vehicle

A vehicle being presented for initial licensing is required to be under five years old at first registration.

By their nature stretch limousines and specialist vehicles are unlikely to comply with the foregoing age criteria for first registration or subsequent licensing. With these types of vehicles applications can be made to the Council to licence vehicles which do not meet the age criteria. Such applications will not be determined by the officers of the Council's Licensing Section but by the Regulatory and Appeals Committee, who will need to be satisfied that the vehicle meets the strict vehicle testing standard, the recommended conditions and requirements which are set out in the Policy.

Section 48 (6) (a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that

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'Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, no person shall use or permit to be used in a controlled district as a private hire vehicle in respect of which a licence has been granted under this section unless the plate or disc issued in accordance with subsection (5) of this section is exhibited on the vehicle in such manner as the district council shall prescribe by condition attached to the grant of the licence.'

The Council's requirement for the display of licence plates on the rear of licensed vehicles is set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, at paragraph 9.4 on page 27.

'9.4 Licence Plates

The licensing plate identifying the vehicle as Hackney Carriage or Private Hire shall be securely fixed to the outside rear of the vehicle in a position as approved by the Council whilst the vehicle is being used for hire purposes and shall be kept fully visible and legible at all times.

A vehicle identification badge shall be fixed to the front windscreen above or below the tax disc, in a position that meets current MOT regulations. The badge will display the plate number, vehicle model, registration and number of passengers on the front face with the Council's details and plate number on the rear.'

The applicant has requested replacement of the traditional size plate with the smaller plate. An example will be shown to the committee. The applicant's reason for the request is to extend existing wedding and charity business to include birthdays, proms and special occasions. It has been requested that the vehicle is available for viewing at the hearing, should the committee wish to do so.

Small plates have previously been granted for specialist vehicles, Chrysler, Mercedes, Audi TDI, stretch Limousine, BMW's and a Range Rover sport because the main use was for weddings and special occasions and the removal of a plate from a licensed vehicle is not permitted at any time. There are approximately vehicles that have small licence plates displayed.

3. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

The main implication is that the plate is a visual aid for the members of the public to show that it is a licensed vehicle. The standard size plate is 240mm x 180mm and the smaller plate requested is 230mm x 75mm, samples of which will be shown at committee.

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4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. OPTIONS

1. Grant the licence with or without the small plate
2. Refuse the grant of the licence

Hayley Carpenter
Licensing Officer
Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	H Carpenter
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	<i>Relevant legislation and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Regulations</i> Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Key Decision	N
In Forward Plan	N
In O&S Work Programme	N
Community Impact Assessment attached:	N