

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Lee Petrak, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
<b>Date of Decision/ Meeting</b>	15 October 2019

## APPLICATION TO LICENCE A MODIFIED PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an application to licence a modified Private Hire vehicle.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To determine whether in principal this vehicle is suitable to be licensed as a Private Hire vehicle and therefore whether to depart from the current policy in granting a licence.

2.2 To delegate authority to the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager to grant the licence, subject to the modifications to the vehicle outlined in Appendix 3(b) being inspected and approved by Central Vehicle Maintenance Unit (CVMU) Layton Depot.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Licensed Private Hire vehicles are responsible for transporting passengers. It is important for the protection of the public that only suitable and fit for purpose vehicles be licensed.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

3.4 None

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity

across Blackpool”

## **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Mr Mitchell Griffiths made a request via email to the Licensing Service on 4 September 2019 to licence a Mercedes Sprinter bus (picture attached at Appendix 3a) which will be customised as per the vehicle plan (attached at Appendix 3b). The intention is for the vehicle to be used for medium to long journeys for pre-dominantly executive travel. The vehicle would be adapted by professional coach builders, to a high standard, using only type approved seating and seatbelts, type approved parts, and meeting all relevant safety regulations.

5.2 Approval is required by the Sub-Committee as the vehicle does not meet the vehicle requirements set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy – Appendix F (Vehicle Specification):

- *The maximum permitted length is 18 feet and the maximum permitted weight is 3500kg.*
- *No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle may be made without first complying with road traffic and insurance legislation and secondly the approval of the licensing service. It is unlikely that anything not of the manufacturer’s specification other than vehicle colour will be authorised.*

5.3 At a standard 19.4ft in length, the vehicle exceeds the 18 feet length restriction and as shown the vehicle plan at Appendix 3(b), major alterations would be made to the interior of the vehicle. The Licensing Service have no objections to this vehicle being licensed in principle and have also contacted Central Vehicle Maintenance Unit (CVMU) at Layton Depot and spoken to Shaun Louth, one of the supervising mechanics for his opinion from a technical perspective. Mr Louth saw no problems with the vehicle being tested by CVMU provided it met the required standards for type approval etc.

5.4 The Sub-Committee is requested to consider whether it should depart from the policy set out above at 5.2 to grant the licence. Any approval would be subject to the modifications to the vehicle outlined in Appendix 3(b) being inspected and approved by Central Vehicle Maintenance Unit (CVMU) Layton Depot. The Trading Standards and Licensing Manager would also require the Sub-Committee to delegate authority to him to grant the licence.

## **5.5 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3(a) - Picture of current vehicle prior to proposed

modifications

Appendix 3(b) – Plan detailing proposed modifications to vehicle

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Head of Legal Services will be represented to advise the Sub-Committee.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.0 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None