

Report of Phillip Hatch

Report to Section Head, Taxi & Private Hire Licensing

Date: 16 September 2014

Subject: Application for the Citroen Berlingo 5 by Automotive Group to be included on the approved list for Hackney Carriage Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Citroen Berlingo 5 by Automotive Group has been tested against Leeds City Council's Standard Conditions attached to a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney carriage Vehicle Proprietors Licence. **Appendix A.**
2. The purpose of this report is to consider the application for a variance to section 4.8.8 of the Standard Conditions attached to a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors Licence.
3. The vehicle was re-inspected by the Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Section on 11 September 2014 and failed to meet condition 4.8.8 (step height dimensions).
4. A similar variation was previously the subject of an application from Cab Direct/Allied Vehicles . This variation was approved in July 2007.
5. The vehicle meets all other criteria for licensing as a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors Licence.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that the application be approved for the Citroen Berlingo 5 by Automotive Group to be included on the approved list for Hackney carriage Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider a request by Automotive Group for the inclusion of their Citroen Berlingo 5 on the approved list of Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicles to be licensed by this Authority. **Appendix B.**

2 Background information

- 2.1 The vehicle was inspected by the Taxi & Private Hire Licensing section on 24 June and failed to meet the conditions required. (**Appendix A** – Conditions attached to Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietor Licence.)
- 2.2 The members of the Access Committee for Leeds¹ were consulted on the application.
- 2.3 The inspection carried out by Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Section highlighted various reasons for rejection and included comments from the Access Committee for Leeds in a letter dated 28 July 2014 to Automotive Group. **Appendix C.**

3 Main issues

- 3.1 A re-inspection was carried out by the Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Section on 11 September 2014 and the vehicle failed to meet condition 4.8.8. of the Conditions attached to a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietor Licence. The vehicle meets all other criteria for licensing as a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle.
- 3.2 Condition 4.8.8 states:
- “4.8.8 Distance between 1st step and vehicle floor 310mm required range 120 – 200mm (step height dimension).
- 3.3 This was previously the subject of an application from Cab Direct/Allied Vehicle to allow a variance to the condition 4.8.8 which was approved on 30 July 2007.
- 3.4 For this vehicle to be approved as a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle, a variation under delegated powers would need to be granted as the vehicle model does not fully comply with the Conditions Attached to Wheelchair Accessible Hackney carriage Vehicle proprietors Licence.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Hackney Carriage trade representatives and the Access Committee for Leeds were consulted on 24 June 2014.

¹ The Access Committee for Leeds (ACL) was established in 1995 as an organisation to act on behalf of people suffering from disabilities of any kind and offer peer-support and empowerment to individuals and families who encounter barriers, exclusion and discrimination in all areas of public service and provision.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 n/a

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Taxi & Private Hire Licensing policies contribute to the following aims:

Best Council Plan 2013 -17

Towards being an Enterprising Council

Our Ambition and Approach

Our Ambition is for Leeds to be the best city and Leeds City Council to be the best council in the UK – fair, open and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all our communities are successful.

Our Approach is to adopt a new leadership style of civic enterprise, where the council becomes more enterprising, business and partners become more civic, and citizens become more actively engaged in the work of the city.

Our Best Council Outcomes

Make it easier for people to do business with us

Our Best Council Objectives

Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth – Improving the economic wellbeing of local people and businesses. With a focus on:

- Helping people into jobs,
- Boosting the local economy
- Generating income for the council

Ensuring high quality public services – improving quality, efficiency and involving people in shaping their city. With a focus on;

- Getting services right first time
- Improving customer satisfaction

4.3.2 The Taxi & Private Hire Licensing policies contribute to priorities:

- Reduce crime levels and their impact across Leeds
- Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in communities

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 None.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 None

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 None

5 Conclusions

5.1 The vehicle model and type does not fully meet the conditions required to be licensed as a Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle. As a variance to Condition 4.8.8 has already been approved in respect of a previous application by Cab Direct/Allied Vehicles in July 2007 there is no reason why a variance cannot be approved in respect of the Citroen Berlingo 5 vehicle by Automotive Group.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the application be approved for the Citroen Berlingo 5 by Automotive Group to be included on the approved list for Hackney Carriage Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

7 Background documents²

7.1 Information used to make this decision:

The technical brochure.

Inspection of the vehicle by P Hatch on 24 June 2014 and re-tested on 11 September 2014.

Letter from Tim McSharry, Head of Disability and Diversity, Access Committee for Leeds received 16 July 2014 dated 7 July 2014.

Previous variances granted to Cab Direct/Allied Vehicle to allow a variation to the conditions in this case dated 30 July 2007 for the variance to their Peugeot Premier.

VCA certification documentation. **Appendix D.**

Wheelchair ramp certification. **Appendix E.**

² The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.