

# Bolton Council

**Report to:** Licensing and Environmental  
Regulation Committee

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012

**Report of:** Director Environmental Services

**Report No:** LER/18/12

**Contact Officer:** Patricia Clyne  
Principal Licensing Officer

**Tele No:** 01204336577

**Report Title:** **Alternative Hackney Carriage Vehicle Length**

---

**Non Confidential:**

This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

**Purpose:**

Members are asked to consider an application to licence a specially converted vehicle as a hackney carriage. The vehicle model is a Mercedes Vito which has been constructed on a long wheel base and subsequently doesn't fully comply with the agreed Council policy. There are 5 Mercedes Vito constructed on a short wheel base currently licensed as hackney carriage vehicles in Bolton. The approved maximum body length at Bolton is 4660mm this Mercedes exceeds the agreed vehicle length by 330mm.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to consider the request and to:

- i) Refuse the application due to current policy requirements, or
- ii) Agree that the elements of the policy regarding vehicle length be not applied for this requests, or
- iii) Take any action deemed necessary.

**Background Doc(s):**

Alternative vehicle committee report and minutes appendix 1 (1.3)  
Documentation in support of the application appendix 2 (2.5)

**Summary:**

No summary

**Report: Alternative Hackney Carriage Vehicle Length**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that all hackney carriage vehicles are licensed and regulated by the Council by virtue of the Town Police Clause Act 1847 and the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976.
- 1.2 Section 47 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976:
- (1) A district council may attach to the grant of a licence of a hackney carriage under the Act of 1847 such conditions as the district council may consider reasonably necessary.*
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection, a district council may require any hackney carriage licensed by them under the Act of 1847 to be of such design or appearance or bear such distinguishing marks as shall clearly identify it as a hackney carriage.*
- (3) Any person aggrieved by any conditions attached to such a licence may appeal to a magistrates' court.*
- 1.3 Specialist vehicle conversion companies produce vehicles which are marketed at the hackney carriage industry and which are built on the platforms of a range of vehicles from 'mainstream' manufacturers.
- 1.4 In March 2002 the Committee approved, the issuing of hackney carriage vehicle licences to 'alternative' type vehicles, for those vehicles that were based on the vehicle 'platforms' of some of the major manufacturers before being 'fitted out' by a specialist vehicle converter.
- 1.5 This was subject to M1 type approval or low volume approval from the Vehicle Inspectorate and a maximum length of 4660mm. A copy of the original Committee report and minute is attached to the report at appendix 1.
- 1.6 A number of 'alternative' types of vehicle have been licensed by the Council since this permission was granted.

**2. The Application**

- 2.1 Mr Khan contacted the Licensing Team and queried if a Mercedes Vito on a long wheel base could be licensed as a hackney carriage vehicle in Bolton. He wishes to replace his currently licensed hackney carriage vehicle, which expires on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- 2.2 Mr Khan has purchased a vehicle that had previously been licensed as a hackney carriage in St Helen's. However due to being constructed on a long wheel base it is 330mm (approximately 14 inches) over the maximum length permitted by the policy of Bolton Council. The approved maximum length for a hackney carriage vehicle is 4660mm.
- 2.3 Mr Khan has made a written requested that the Committee considers allowing this vehicle, which fall outside of the current policy be licensed. A copy of this letter and the supporting documentation is attached to the report at appendix 2.
- 2.4 The Network Planning, Safety and Management Team (Highways and Development) have confirmed that the vehicle length used for the provision of ranking spaces is 6000mm per vehicle. This figure does factor in the ability to be able to move on and off the rank and can

be reduced for ranks in a restrictive location. A further calculation is used in traffic flow management and the development of road infrastructure and the hackney carriage vehicle length for this calculation is 4585mm.

- 2.5 Mr Khan and Mr Oakes from the Hackney Carriage Driver Association Ltd, who is representing Mr Khan have been invited to attend the meeting to support their application. The vehicle will also be available should Members wish to view it.

## **2. Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider the request and to:

- i) Refuse the application due to current policy requirements, or
- ii) Agree that the elements of the policy regarding vehicle length be not applied for this requests, or
- iii) Take any action deemed necessary.