

Minutes of the meeting of the LICENSING AND  
APPEALS HEARINGS PANEL held at 9.30 am  
on Friday, 1st September, 2017 at Main  
Committee Room, Civic Centre, Stone Cross,  
Northallerton

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Present

Councillor M A Barningham (in the Chair)

Councillor P Bardon

Councillor K G Hardisty

LAHP.8 **APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE  
LICENCE - MR JAMES ARMSTRONG - HC87**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Law and Governance asked the Panel to consider whether to grant or refuse an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage vehicle licence.

**Alternative options considered:**

The Panel considered refusing the application but concluded that the specific circumstances of the case were sufficient to justify departing from the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

**The reason for the decision:**

The Panel considered the officer's report, the applicant's representations, the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and the relevant legislation.

The Panel noted that the vehicle in question satisfied the mechanical standards set out in the Council's policy. However, the vehicle reached the general ten year age limit (as prescribed by the policy) in August 2014. The Panel noted that the age limit was adopted in order to promote public safety, reliability and improved high standards of hackney carriage and private hire services in the district.

The applicant informed the Panel that his vehicle was a luxury brand, was exceptionally well maintained and that the recorded mileage on the vehicle was comparatively low. The applicant invited the Panel to consider the exceptional circumstances of his case on the basis of the vehicle's quality, appearance and condition.

The Panel considered the vehicle's MOT history and full service history. The Panel acknowledged that, since the applicant took ownership of the vehicle, all MOT tests had been passed with no advisory notice items recorded and regular services had been carried out. The Panel was therefore satisfied that the mechanical condition of the vehicle was maintained to a high standard.

The Panel inspected the vehicle and was impressed by its exceptional appearance. The Panel was therefore satisfied that the appearance of the vehicle and the level of comfort provided to passengers would surpass the expectations of the travelling public.

In conclusion, the Panel was satisfied that the mechanical condition of the vehicle, the quality of the vehicle and its exceptional appearance, along with the comparatively low mileage, would adequately promote the Council's policy objectives in relation to standards, reliability and safety of licensed vehicles.

**THE DECISION:**

Taking account of the above and having given appropriate weight to the evidence, the Panel was satisfied that the application could be granted without having a detrimental impact on the policy objectives. Therefore, the Panel decided to grant the application.

The meeting closed at 10.15 am

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Chairman of the Panel