

23 March 2022

Report of	Assistant Director of Communities	Author	Jon Ruder
Title	Allocation of Hackney Carriage Plate		☎ 282840
Wards affected	Not applicable		

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the allocation of a hackney carriage plate which has become available.

## 2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That the plate be allocated in accordance with the approved procedure set out in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

## 3. Reason for Recommended Decisions

- 3.1 To ensure that due process is followed in the allocation of the plate.

## 4. Alternative Option

- 4.1 Not to allocate the plate.

## **5. Background Information**

- 5.1 Following the availability of a Hackney Carriage licence, the Council needs to determine its allocation.
- 5.2 The Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy sets out the procedure to be followed to ensure that the plate is allocated in a fair and open manner.
- 5.3 Those who apply and meet the relevant criteria detailed above will be allocated a number in advance of the draw. The draw will consist of an excel based programme to randomly pick a number. The number corresponds to the applicant.

The relevant extracts of the Policy are set out below -

### **Eligibility**

2.1 In order to qualify for the allocation process the following eligibility criteria must be met:

- The applicant must not already hold a hackney carriage plate.
- The applicant must not have had a licence suspended or revoked during a five year period immediately prior to the start of the process.
- The applicant must be compliant with all conditions within the Council's current policy and have not received penalty points within one year prior to the start of the process.

### **Process**

4.1 All persons who have indicated an interest will be notified of a plate becoming available and the relevant process. A notice will be placed on the Colchester Borough Council website. This will detail the process and indicate a closing date for registration to apply and be entered in a randomly generated draw.

4.2 Those who apply and meet the relevant criteria detailed above will be entered into a draw that will consist of an excel based programme to randomly pick an applicant.

4.3 To avoid any ambiguity the draw will be carried out at a meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee at a specified date and time.

4.4 The number of draws will depend on the number of plates available.

### **Conditions**

6.1 The plate that is newly re-issued cannot be sold or transferred for a period of five years from issue.

6.2 The vehicle licence granted remains a wheelchair accessible licence in perpetuity.

6.3 The vehicle provided must be accessible to customers seated in either in either a manual or electric wheelchair.

6.4 The outcome of the draw is final.

- 5.3 The Council has followed the process set out and the names of all the eligible parties have been added to the programme to enable the draw to take place at the Committee. The draw is taking place at the Committee and not the Sub-Committee in the interests of expediency; the Committee has the relevant powers to enable it to take this action.

## **6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 6.1 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, of which this forms a part, was developed in accordance with and taken account of all relevant legislation and national and local strategies.

## **7. Standard References**

- 7.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

## **8. Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

- 8.1 The environmental and sustainability implications of the licensing of Hackney Carriage Vehicles have been considered as part of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
- 8.2 In line with the Healthier Air for Colchester Air Quality Action Plan the Council has set the following compliance dates and standards for emissions from licensed vehicles –
- Euro 5 for diesel vehicles/Euro 4 for petrol from 2018
  - Euro 6 for diesel vehicles / Euro 4 for petrol from 2020
  - From 2025 all new registrations to meet an LPG, low emission or electric hybrid standard.

Any new vehicle licensed following this allocation process must comply with these standards.