

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director Enterprise, Tourism and the  
Environment

to

**Licensing Sub Committee C**

on

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010**

Report prepared by: Allan Evans

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## **Request to Operate a Citroen Xsara Picasso as a Hackney Carriage**

### ***A Part 1 Public Agenda Item***

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#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider a request from Mr Dennis Carter to waive the Private Hire Licensing Conditions listed below, which would, if granted, permit a Citroen Xsara Picasso motor vehicle to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage.

#### ***Condition 1a)(v)***

A length (of vehicle) of not less than 432cm (170 inches).

#### ***Summary of Conditions Footnote***

All relevant facts will be taken into account when consideration is given to an application for a Hackney Carriage Licence and it may be that additional or higher standards will be imposed. The standards may be relaxed in exceptional circumstances.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 **That Members give consideration to the application by Mr Carter to licence a Citroen Xsara Picasso as a Hackney Carriage.**
- 2.2 **It is recommended that the application be approved and the standards imposed by conditions be relaxed in this instance.**
- 2.3 **It is also recommended that, if approved, the standards for Private Hire Vehicle Conditions shown at 1a)b)(iv) be relaxed.**

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Licensing Conditions lay down minimum standards for vehicles set by Licensing Committee. These include criteria for suitability, age, comfort and dimensions to ensure that suitable vehicles are used for public and private hire (**Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**).
- 3.2 The minimum standard set for the length of a vehicle is 432cm (170 inches), introduced to promote comfort for the passengers travelling inside. Since this

condition was introduced, vehicle design has in some instances changed to the extent that some shorter vehicles have the same, if not more, leg room than some longer vehicles.

3.3 The Citroen Xsara Picasso is one such vehicle that falls short of the dimension required by conditions, but will comfortably seat three persons on the rear seat. The overall length is 427cm (168.3 inches). The vehicle is already licensed in all our neighbouring boroughs of: Basildon, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Rochford.

3.4 Mr Carter will make a Citroen Xsara Picasso available for members to view at the Civic Centre on the morning of the Committee Meeting to consider the points made from 3.1 to 3.3.

#### **4. Corporate Implications**

##### **4.1 Resource Implications**

*None.*

##### **4.2 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities**

To maintain and improve transport availability within the borough.

##### **4.3 Consultation**

All recommendations have been fully consulted with Officers and interested parties.

##### **4.4 Equalities Impact Assessment**

No assessment necessary.

##### **4.5 Risk Assessment**

No assessment necessary.

##### **4.6 Value for Money**

Not applicable.

##### **4.7 Community Safety Implications**

To maintain a taxi service within the borough.

##### **4.8 Environmental Impact**

Making transport available to impact on potential crime or safety issues.

#### **5. Background Papers**

5.1 Letter from Mr Carter requesting to vary current licensing conditions for Hackney Carriage vehicles.

**6. Appendices**

**Appendix 1** - Hackney Carriage vehicle licence conditions.

**Appendix 2** - Private Hire vehicle licence conditions.