

## REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	Subject: ACCESSIBLE TAXIS	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 29 September 2004	Ref: WBK/KH	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to recommend additional wheelchair accessible vehicles for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire.

**2. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 2.1. There is a longstanding Council commitment to improving taxi accessibility in North Lanarkshire and that commitment has been carried through rigorously by the General Purposes Committee. As well as measures requiring the adaptation of saloon taxis, there are an increasing number of taxi licences subject to a requirement to operate approved purpose built (including purpose adapted) wheelchair accessible vehicles and that trend is set to continue.
- 2.2. The market in accessible vehicles continues to grow. Many companies are taking well known vehicles as a base and are adapting them for wheelchair and other forms of disabled access. The Head of Legal Services is continually monitoring the market and in conjunction with the Council's Transport Manager is endeavouring to identify suitable vehicles for use as taxis in order that operators and the public may have as wide a choice of vehicle as possible.
- 2.3. A recent exercise has identified the following vehicles as suitable for recommendation for use as licensed taxis:
- (a) Citroen Voyager Le Cab Noir
  - (b) Fiat Dakota Cab
  - (c) Fiat Hackney Eurocab

These vehicles are shown in the appendix to this report. They are all of a similar design and incorporate a number of disabled friendly features such as handrails, ramps and, of course, full wheelchair accessibility. The Transport Manager has commended these vehicles as suitable for use as licensed taxis based on their disabled access, comfort, appearance and "type approval". Type approval is the certification that a vehicle has been built or adapted to certain approved national and European standards and is granted by the Vehicle Certification Agency.

- 2.4. The Committee may also wish to note that the original Peugeot Euro7 has been upgraded and is now marketed by two separate companies as the Peugeot E7 and the Peugeot European. The vehicles are in use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire and fully meet with the approval of the Transport Manager. These vehicles are also shown in the appendix for members' information.

3. **CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. The measures contained in this report are in line with the Council's commitment ensuring that services falling within its regulation are disabled friendly.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to approve the Citroen Voyager Le Cab Noir, Fiat Dakota Cab and Fiat Hackney Eurocab for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire.

*Walter B. Kilgour*

*W*. **Director of Administration**

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Kenny Hannaway, Senior Solicitor (Licensing) on Extension 2214.*



Citroen Le Cab Noir



Fiat Dakota Cab



Fiat Hackney Eurocab



Peugeot E7



Peugeot European