

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: ACCESSIBLE TAXIS
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 18 September, 2006	Ref: WBK/MK	

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

2.1. Members will be aware from previous consideration that the Council is committed to improve taxi accessibility both in relation to saloon taxis and also purpose built (including purpose adapted) wheelchair accessible vehicles.

2.2. At meetings of the Committee held on 27 October 2004 and 18 May 2005 a number of vehicles were approved for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire, namely the Citroën Voyager Le Cab Noir, Fiat Dakota Cab, Fiat Hackney Euro Cab, TW200 and Fiat Scudo Urban 7 Euro Cab.

3. REPORT

3.1. As was noted in the earlier reports the market in accessible vehicles continues to grow and monitoring takes place between the Head of Legal Services and the Transport Manager to achieve the identification of suitable vehicles for use as taxis in order that operators and the public may have as wide a choice of vehicles as possible.

3.2. The Transport Manager has recently had presented to him the TW300 which is a hackney style vehicle developed by John Paton and Sons. The vehicle is a conversion based on the Volkswagen Transporter short wheel base and has a number of disabled friendly features and is fully wheelchair accessible. Following inspection the Transport Manager commends this vehicle for approval.

3.3. The Transport Manager has also recently had presented to him the Mercedes M8 which is a vehicle developed by Allied Vehicles (Cab Direct). This vehicle is a conversion based on the Mercedes Vito short wheel base and again possesses disabled friendly features and is fully wheelchair accessible. Following inspection the Transport Manager recommends this vehicle for approval.

4. CORPORATE CONSIDERATION

4.1. The measures contained in this report are in line with the Council's commitment to ensuring that services are disabled friendly.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1. The Committee is asked to approve the TW300 and Mercedes M8 for use as licensed taxi vehicles in North Lanarkshire.

Walter B. Kelgou

p. Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Mitch Kerr, Chief Solicitor (District Courts and Licensing), on extension 2371.