

Committee: Licensing Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 11 March 2009

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Title: Vehicle Testing

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Item for
decision

Summary

- 1 This report has been prepared to update members following their decision to outsource licensed vehicle testing from 1 April 2009.

Recommendations

Members note the content of this report.

Background Papers

None.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	The trade have been formally consulted with regard to this issue and support the outsourcing of vehicle testing.
Community Safety	The main aim of the taxi and private hire vehicle licensing regime is to secure the safety and comfort of the public. Members should therefore ensure that any policy adopted fulfils these aims.
Equalities	Garages wishing to be considered as an approved vehicle testing station will have to demonstrate that they comply with our standards of equalities and diversity.
Finance	None.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	If testing stations were to be sited across the district there may be marginal emissions savings as proprietors may be able to take their vehicles to closer stations for testing.

Vehicle Testing

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Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

- 2 Following the decision to outsource vehicle testing from 1 April 2009 the author of this report wrote to the 19 approved VOSA Testing Stations within this district seeking a direction as to whether or not they would be interested in undertaking this type of work. From the original consultation eight premises registered an interest each submitting their modus operandi, together with the current equalities and diversity policy.
- 3 Impact assessments were conducted on all eight applications resulting in three being formally appointed to act as approved stations with the remaining five being rejected on the grounds that the policy submitted did not address the equality and diversity issues with regard to the provision of services to their customers.
- 4 Guidance has been given regarding equalities and diversities and the garages concerned have been informed that they can reapply should they amend their current policy.
- 5 Approval has been given to those premises listed below:
 - (a) JPS Motors
Unit 15 Shire Hill Industrial Estate
Saffron Walden
 - (b) Station Road Garage
Station Road Industrial Estate
Great Dunmow
 - (c) A H Brooks & Son
Brooklands Garage
Wimbish

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Vehicles are not tested to the appropriate standard	1, only VOSA approved MOT testers would be recognised as being competent to carry out tests on the Council's behalf	5, an unsafe vehicle is more likely to be involved in a road traffic accident which could lead to death, injury and/or damage to property	Officers use their statutory powers to carry out spot checks on vehicles and to suspend the licence of any vehicle found to be unfit.