

Committee: Licensing Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 17 June 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

- 2 Members note the content of this report.

Background Papers

- 3 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	Approved Garages have submitted their own policy which complies with our standards of equalities and diversity.
Finance	None.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	Approved testing stations are sited across the district there so there are savings as proprietors will be able to take their vehicles to the nearest station for testing
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

- 4 On 11 March 2009 Members were advised that the following VOSA approved garages had meet our specific standards and were duly appointed from 1 April 2009.

- (a) JPS Motors, Unit 15, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden
- (b) Station Road Garage, Station Road Industrial Estate, Great Dunmow
- (c) AH Brooks and Son, Brooklands Garage, Wimbish

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- 5 A further four applications were received resulting in impact assessments being made, after initially being rejected on the grounds of not meeting equality and diversity issues. Having received suitable guidance, their policies were re-examined by a panel who are satisfied that they meet the required criteria.
- 6 Approval has now been given to the following VOSA approved centres:
- (d) Autoline Garage Services, Unit 9, Ashdon Road Commercial Centre, Saffron Walden
 - (e) Taylors Service Centre, 1 – 3 Chelmsford Road Industrial Estate, Great Dunmow
 - (f) Muir’s Garage, The Hall, Little Canfield
- 7 Since the inception of outsourcing vehicle testing, 33 vehicles were tested in April 2009 and 27 in May 2009. A projection for June 2009 indicates that 39 vehicles are due for inspection.
- 8 The previous regime for testing at our ‘in-house’ facilities at Great Dunmow show a steady increase of vehicles being tested either as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire. Listed below are previous year’s figures:

2005 – 2006	412
2006 – 2007	534
2007 – 2008	598
2008 – 2009	625

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	4, 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.