

## Vehicle Testing

### Licensing Committee, item 6

**Committee:** Licensing

**Date:** 16 September 2009

**Title:** Vehicle Testing

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**Agenda Item**

**6**

Item for  
decision

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#### Summary

- 1 This report has been prepared following a recommendation from the UTDA meeting of 23 June 2009.

#### Recommendations

- 2 Members may wish to amend our current vehicle licence conditions.

#### Background Papers

- 3 UTDA minutes of 23 June 2009 which have already been circulated to Members.

#### Impact

Communication/Consultation	Dealt with at the last meeting of UTDA
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	None.
Finance	None.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	Approved testing stations are sited across the district 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.

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**Situation**

- 4 Uttlesford District Council operates an open and transparent policy when dealing with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade and is seen by other authorities as operating a system of best practice.
- 5 This policy is reinforced by the holding of three yearly meetings with the trade who meet under the UTDA banner.
- 6 This forum was placed on a formal footing in 1998 by the current licensing officer where officers and trade representatives meet to discuss issues affecting both parties. The forum now includes members of the Licensing Committee.
- 7 Our current practice in respect of vehicles state that vehicle inspections must take place at six monthly intervals or on an annual basis subject to the age of the vehicle. This is determined by the date of first registration contained within the V5 document.
- 8 When a vehicle is due for an inspection a computer generated letter is sent to the proprietor or operator of that vehicle giving the date the inspection is due by.
- 9 Upon a satisfactory inspection being completed the date on the computer is then amended to reflect a further six months or one year depending on the age of the vehicle.
- 10 Currently the VOSA MOT test regulations permit a vehicle to be taken in for a test one month prior to the inspection date. However, if taken advantage of the date of the next inspection will still remain the same albeit it was taken in early.
- 11 Operators are suggesting that we amend our current working practice to reflect that of VOSA.
- 12 The advantage is that operators will have a greater degree of flexibility when booking tests at one of our approved garages, especially those with a large fleet of vehicles.

**Risk Analysis**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Vehicles are not tested on time	1 Reminder letters go out at least one month before a test is due	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	Enforcement Officers use their statutory powers to carry out spot checks on vehicles