

TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
12 JUNE 2014

AUTHORISED GARAGES FOR TESTING OF LICENSED VEHICLES
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to review the provision for authorised garages carrying out testing of licensed vehicles in the Bracknell Forest Borough.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee

- i) **Authorises officers to seek expressions of interest from suitable local garages, and**
- ii) **Delegates authority to the Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection in consultation with the Chairman to agree with officers those sites that shall be authorised to test vehicles on behalf of the Council.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The decision to outsource tests was taken in 2008. Since then the Council authorised garages to carry out testing of vehicles to ensure they are in satisfactory condition for use as a licensed vehicle. The arrangements were last reviewed in the summer of 2010.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Council are required to be able to test vehicles to ensure they are in a suitable condition to be used as licensed vehicles, prior to issue of a licence. It is understood that at least two authorised garages are required to ensure that demand for inspections is met without any undue delay in obtaining an appointment.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The vehicle inspection covers all matters currently assessed during an MOT, and also additional matters to ensure the vehicle meets the criteria and condition to ensure safe and comfortable use of a licensed vehicle. The current inspection form is attached at Annex A.
- 5.2 It is proposed that following receipt of expressions of interest from garages, a questionnaire will be sent to obtain details about the business. Visits and sample vehicle inspections may also be carried out to assess the premises, their facilities and procedures.
- 5.3 Some larger vehicles such as stretched limousines have long wheelbases and therefore not all garages have the facilities to test these vehicles. It is therefore essential that at least one garage able to test these longer vehicles is authorised by the Council to carry out vehicle testing.
- 5.4 All approved garages will be required to carry out window tint testing.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The legal implications are identified within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 There are no strategic risk management implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 All garages that have previously expressed an interest in provision of testing of licensed vehicles and any others in the Borough likely to have the necessary facilities will be invited to complete a questionnaire for assessment.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 As above.

Representations Received

- 7.3 None as yet.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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