

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

28 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE TESTING STATIONS
WARD AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR WJ DAVIES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members to invite applications from approved MOT testing stations to be authorised as Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Compliance Testing Stations in addition to the four garages that are currently authorised to undertake this work.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 In order to be licensed as a Private Hire or a Hackney Carriage Vehicle in Wirral the vehicle must pass the equivalent of an MOT test and the checks set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Compliance Testing document. A copy of the compliance testing document is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 On 9 November 2009 Members of this Committee resolved that the following Testing Stations be approved to undertake the testing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral:
- Walsh Autos, Cleveland Street, Birkenhead
 - Village Motor Company, Cross Lane, Wallasey
 - Dane Volkswagen, New Chester Road, Bromborough
 - Wright Car Centre, Chester Road, Heswall
- 2.3 The appointment of these Testing Stations followed an invitation to all 48 MOT Testing Stations in Wirral. Completed applications were received from ten testing stations across the Borough. Each application was assessed against the same criteria and a score allocated to each testing station. Using the information provided on the assessment forms and the summary of assessment scores the above testing stations

attained the highest scores and did not score a 0 in any of the criteria upon which they were assessed. The garages are located in different areas of the Borough and at the time of their appointment were considered to be sufficient to provide a choice to drivers in terms of location and the provision of both appointment and a drop-in service.

2.4 Since the appointment of these garages in January 2010 further enquiries have been made as to how a testing station may be appointed to undertake the testing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles. Due to the lapse in time since the garages were appointed it is proposed that applications again be invited from Approved MOT Testing Centres in Wirral that are currently not authorised to undertake the testing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral. An assessment of applications will be undertaken using the criteria applied previously and details of the responses received will be reported back to Members of this Committee for further consideration.

2.5 It is proposed that expressions of interest are invited through an advertisement in the Wirral Globe and by writing directly to each of the Testing Stations enclosing the application form shown in Appendix 2. Each application will then be assessed against the same criteria using the scoring system shown in Appendix 3.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 This is not a matter which requires consultation.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

7.1 There are none.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 There are staffing implications arising from this report due to officer time required to send out invitations and assess applications. This will be met through existing resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A decision of the Committee may be subject to legal challenge.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No because there is no relevance to equality.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific carbon reduction implications arising from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no Planning or Community Safety implications arising out of this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

That Members instruct officers to invite applications from Approved MOT Testing Centres in Wirral that are currently not authorised to undertake the testing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral to be appointed as Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing Stations and report the responses and assessment results to a future meeting of this Committee.

14.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 The Testing Stations currently approved to undertake the testing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicle testing were appointed in January 2010 and since that date the Council has received a number of enquiries from garages who wish to be considered appropriate to undertake this service.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Margaret O'Donnell*
Licensing Manager
telephone: (0151) 691 8606
email: margaretodonnell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Compliance testing document

Appendix 2 Application form

Appendix 3 Scoring system

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date