

**LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE****12 OCTOBER 2016**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE TESTING ARRANGEMENTS</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is for Members to approve the appointment of additional Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Compliance Testing Stations.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Members approve the appointment of the following MOT testing stations to carry out Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Compliance Testing with effect from 1 November 2016:

- ATS Euromaster, Pensby Road, Pensby
- BP Autos, Legh Road, New Ferry
- M53 Ford, Green Lane, Birkenhead
- Vittoria Motor Services, Vittoria Street, Birkenhead
- Wirral Tyre and Commercial, Bassendale Road, Bromborough

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 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 to be authorised to undertake this service.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In order to be licensed as a Private Hire or a Hackney Carriage Vehicle in Wirral the vehicle must pass an MOT test and a Compliance test based on the checks set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Compliance Testing document. Licences are issued for either six months or twelve months depending on the age of the vehicle.

- 3.2 There are currently four testing stations approved to undertake the testing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral. These are:

- Dane Volkswagen, New Chester Road, Bromborough
- Village Motor Company, Cross Lane, Wallasey
- Walsh Autos, Cleveland Street, Birkenhead
- Wright Car Centre, Chester Road, Heswall

- 3.3 These testing stations were appointed in January 2010 and are subject to a Service Level Agreement which is monitored by Licensing Officers. Since the time when these garages were appointed a number of garages have expressed an interest in obtaining approval as a testing station for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

- 3.4 At a meeting of this Committee on 28 September 2015 Members resolved that applications 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. Members also resolved that the responses and assessment results be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

- 3.5 This process has now been completed. Applications were received from the following five testing stations:

- ATS Euromaster, Pensby Road, Pensby
- BP Autos, Legh Road, New Ferry
- M53 Ford, Green Lane, Birkenhead

- Vittoria Motor Services, Vittoria Street, Birkenhead
- Wirral Tyre and Commercial, Bassendale Road, Bromborough

- 3.6 Following an assessment of the written applications site visits were undertaken to each of the testing stations to verify statements made in the written applications.
- 3.7 Whilst the capacity of each testing station varied as well as the cost of the test, officers did not identify a reason why any of the five testing stations should not be appointed as Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing stations.
- 3.8 A table comparing the information provided by each applicant is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.9 Members should be aware that one of the testing stations is associated with two companies who own a number of licensed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles.
- 3.10 The current Vehicle Compliance Testing Document states that:
- Approved compliance testing stations must not issue certificates for vehicles owned by that testing station. Vehicles registered in the name of an approved compliance testing station must be tested by an independent approved compliance test station.
- 3.11 It is proposed that this wording is amended to read:
- Approved compliance testing stations must not issue certificates for vehicles owned by that testing station or associated companies and individuals. Such vehicles must be tested by an independent approved compliance testing station.
- 3.12 It is further proposed that this statement also be included in all Service Level agreements entered into with approved Testing Stations.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The appointment of additional testing stations will have an impact on officer time to monitor the progress and performance of all the appointed testing stations.

#### **7.0 RISKS**

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 This is not a matter that requires consultation.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Table of information on application forms

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee</b>	<b>28 September 2015</b>