

TITLE: Additional Testing Stations for Taxi Mobs

TO/ON: 26 January 2006

BY: Derek Hamill- Licensing Enforcement Officer

LEAD MEMBER: Judith Driver– Street Scene and Liveability

STATUS: For Publication.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the requests from the Motor Trade within Rossendale, with regard to the testing of licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Licensing Committee are requested to determine if they wish to consider additional garages to be included on the Council's list of designated garages which currently undertake the testing of our licensed fleet of vehicles.

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 This Local Authority currently engages the services of Rossendale Tyre & Exhaust Company on Bacup Road Rawtenstall, and J/A Taylor on New Hall Hey Road in Rawtenstall. Both garages offer a high standard of service to the Council and have done so for many years. We have a good working relationship with both garages, and they have a good understanding of what the Council's Licensing Unit expects from them with regard to the testing of the vehicles and the support which is required in an effort to maintain the high standards we undertake.

More recently the Taxi Trade and in particular the Rossendale Taxi Association have voiced their concerns with regard to the flexibility our respective garages can offer, the trade say they are not able to facilitate the increased amount of vehicle testing at what they describe as Peak Times.

Each licensed vehicle undertakes 2 Mot's per year and this is a condition of their vehicle licence the Council Licensing Committee approved these conditions in April 2004. The majority of Licensed trade do not have concerns with this condition attached to the vehicle licence, but inform the Council that they have difficulty in booking their respective vehicles in for both annual tests and the 6 monthly Mot examinations.

In response to the trade's concerns, the designated garages state that every effort is made to facilitate the testing of the licensed fleet they further point out that the trade do not assist in this regard by booking their vehicle's in at the very last moment the trade are then faced with disappointment when immediate booking times are not available.

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4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 Not applicable

4.2 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.2 Not applicable

4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

4.3 Not applicable

4.4 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.4 Quality services for local people and confident communities.

5. RISK

Not Applicable

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

6.1 There are no implications.

7. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

7.1 There are no equalities issues.

8. WARDS AFFECTED

8.1 All Wards could be affected

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 The Rossendale Taxi Association and the Haslingden Taxi Association, Independent Hackney Carriage Drivers and Operators.

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

Derek Hamill, Licensing Enforcement Officer (01706) 244763)