

TITLE	:	Six Monthly Licensed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle examinations
TO/ON	:	Licensing Committee, Thursday, 16th March 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 details of the Rossendale Borough Council's licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicle failures.
- 1.2 To inform members of the request from the trade that the six monthly MOT on vehicles under five years of age from the date of first registration be removed. The trade wish to have annual tests for these vehicles and to revert back to two tests per year for the final three years of the licensed vehicle.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the report and the failed examination details and consider the request from the trade.
- 2.2 That the Licensing Committee resolve to retain the requirement for a six monthly MOT on licensed vehicles.

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 This Local Authority has a responsibility to licence hackney carriage and private vehicles.
- 3.2 The Council has designated two local garages to undertake the testing of our licensed fleet.

- 3.3 Part of the designated garages responsibilities is to report and supply the licensing unit with details of all failed vehicle notices and which they do so on a regular basis. This condition is attached to a contractual agreement.
- 3.4 The licensed trade request that the 6 monthly test be removed from our current licence conditions as they advise us that the licensed fleet of vehicles are of a very good standard and are well maintained.
- 3.5 The trade also state that there are very few recorded accidents which relate to serious mechanical failure, therefore indicating the high standard of the current licensed vehicle fleet.
- 3.6 They are of the opinion that the 6 monthly test is a financial burden to them and with modern engineering, this test is not needed as the vehicles are built better.
- 3.7 Copies of the MOT refusal notices are attached at Appendix A. These highlight some major defects where had the vehicle in question not been 6 monthly inspected, would have resulted in serious mechanical failure and jeopardised the safety of the public.
- 3.8 In a joint enforcement operation held on 4th November 2005, 7 vehicles out of the 16 stopped were issued with defect notices, which equates to 43.75%.

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

There is a theoretical risk of civil action against the Council if they are found not to have exercised due diligence in enforcing licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles conditions.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

6.1 As outlined in the main body of the report.

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 Nil

Background documents

Appendices- Copies of failed 6 monthly reports.

For further information on this report please contact;
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