

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

7 November 2019

TITLE:	Approved MOT Stations Update
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Sloman - Executive Councillor for Corporate Services and Finance
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson – Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The report is to update the Committee on the review and feedback from the approved MOT stations since its implementation in 2018.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report and continues to support the approved list of garages.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 In 2018 the authority introduced a list of approved garages within the Borough for delivery of the Council's required taxi testing regime. The introduction of scheme was to support the authorities licensed vehicle owners to give a greater choice of premises where they can take their vehicles for the required testing
- 3.2 It was agreed by members that a review of the current list should be undertaken and feedback obtained from the premises within the scheme.
- 3.3 All of the approved garages were contacted and asked to complete a feedback questionnaire with the following questions.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you agreeable to remaining on our Approved List going forward |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you experienced any difficulties in accommodating the number of licensed vehicles that have presented themselves to you |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some of the licensed vehicles are adapted or 'stretch' vehicles – are you able to accommodate vehicles that have a longer wheelbase, as |

we have had some feedback from Operators that there are too few Approved Centres that can accommodate such vehicles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of our Policy conditions is that any advisories identified on an MOT must be dealt with before their vehicle is presented for renewal. Have you experienced any pressure from Operators to minimise or eliminate advisories at the time of test? If so, can you give some detail on the problem you experienced?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the Council's aim going forward to ask Approved Centres to check items that are not included in the standard MOT. As an example, we would like Approved Centres to check the seat belts, fastenings and securing mechanisms associated with securing wheelchairs in position. We might ask that Approved centres check vehicles for policy requirements over and above the MOT standard – as an example, whether the Hackney Carriage vehicles are displaying the HPBC Decals on the bonnet and on each side of the vehicle, or whether Private Hire Vehicles are displaying the name of the Operator on the side. Would you be willing to extend the vehicle testing to include some additional non-standard tests?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have the facility to carry out LOLER testing on powered Tail-lifts on disabled access vehicles?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have any other feedback to give us, or any additional comments on the questions above.

3.4 The responses received from the garages were extremely positive and the authority did not have any serious concerns reported. All of the garages were more than happy to carry out additional checks as and when required by the Authority.

3.5 The survey will be repeated every 12 months and a dedicated taxi email box has been set up to enable any issues to be reported promptly.

4. Options and Analysis

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to continue with the Approved Garage list as the feedback received has been very positive.

5. Implications

5.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

The appropriate enforcement of licensing legislation in partnership with relevant agencies is a key tool in assuring the maintenance of community safety.

5.2 Workforce

None.

5.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

5.4 Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations to consider, all costs will be met by the Vehicle Operators.

5.5 Legal

As considered in the report.

5.6 Sustainability

The continuation of the approved garage list will ensure that the Authority is consistent in its approach to MOT Testing

5.7 How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak
- Protect and create jobs by supporting economic growth, development and regeneration

Mr Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

Web Links and Background Papers

https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/media/3863/List-of-approved-MOT-stations/pdf/HPBC_Approved_MOT_Garages.pdf

Contact details

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