

Licensing Committee

4 September 2018

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Testing Contract

Final Decision-Maker	Licensing Committee
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Dr Ronen Basu, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability
Lead Director	Paul Taylor, Director of Change and Communities
Head of Service	Gary Stevenson, Head of Housing, Health & Environment
Lead Officer/Author	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	ALL

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. To note the action taken to award the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing Contract.

This report relates to the following Five Year Plan Key Objectives:

- A Prosperous Borough
In the interests of public safety, the licensing procedure is intended to ensure that the people of Tunbridge Wells can be confident that all licensed vehicles are fit for purpose.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Licensing Committee	4 September 2018

Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Testing Contract

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the recent Tendering exercise to award the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Testing Contract for the period 2018/2021.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.50 (1) requires Proprietors of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to have their vehicles tested at such a place within the area of the Council to ensure suitability for the use intended.
- 2.2 The previous Contract expired earlier this year; therefore it was necessary to re-tender the Contract. It should be noted that our existing contractors will continue to provide testing services until the award of the new Contract.
- 2.3 As the Borough is geographically extensive, the current Contract was operated by three testing stations to allow flexibility for Proprietors to arrange the required tests.
- 2.4 The Authority undertook a Tender exercise on 1st August 2018, seeking expressions of interest from appropriately qualified MOT testing centres within the Borough, who were required to complete a Tender submission online via the Kent Business Portal with the deadline being Friday 31st August.
- 2.5 The garages submitted a 'schedule of fees' to cover the costs of provision of the MOT and compliance testing arrangements.
- 2.6 We currently expend in the region of £30,000 per annum for the testing of vehicles, all costs associated with this Contract are recovered directly through the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licence fees; therefore there is no cost to the Authority.
- 2.7 The timeline for the procurement is as follows:
- Portal advert live – 1st August 2018
 - Tender submission deadline Friday 31st August
 - Evaluation to be completed by – 3 September
 - Committee approval/sign off – Tuesday 4th September
 - Contract award notification – Friday 7th September
 - Contract commence date – Monday 1st October
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3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 It is a legal requirement for vehicles to be subject to an MOT test, in addition the Council's testing regime also includes a range of additional checks over and above a standard MOT to ensure the vehicles satisfies the higher compliance standards set by the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. These tests would also apply to vehicles less than three years old.
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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To note the action taken to award the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing Contract, which will enable vehicles to be tested to ensure suitability for the use intended.
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5. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 5.1 Details of the successful Contractors will be placed on the Council's website.
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6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	<p>The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.50 (1) requires Proprietors of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to have their vehicles tested at such a place within the area of the Council to ensure suitability for the use intended.</p> <p>The Council has conducted a lawful and proper procurement exercise to select the garages to provide this statutory required service.</p>	Robin Harris, Senior Lawyer Contentious 17. 08. 2018
Finance and other resources	No financial implications. All costs associated with this Contract are recovered directly through the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licence fees; therefore there is no cost to the Authority.	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Staffing establishment	No implications	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Risk management	No implications	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior

		Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Data Protection	No implications	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Environment and sustainability	All licenced vehicles are required to comply with the Department for Transport testing regime; in addition, additional checks are undertaken in accordance with the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy.	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Community safety	The rationale behind a licensing regime covering this important part of the public transport system is the provision of a service to the public that is accessible and safe.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager [Date signed]
Health and Safety	No implications	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Health and wellbeing	No implications	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18
Equalities	No implications	Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer 16.08.18

7. REPORT APPENDICES

N/A

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A