



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 21 DECEMBER 2005

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

### EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING STAFF AT SPECIFIED TAXI TESTING STATIONS

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note and approve the contents of the report.
- 1.2 To approve the current post MOT qualification experience requirement for taxi testing staff to be changed from two years to six months.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council currently utilises a number of 'Specified Testing Stations' to undertake testing on vehicles covered by the taxi licensing regime.
- 2.2 Many of the testing procedures undertaken require that the examiner is an approved MOT tester and has a comprehensive mechanical knowledge of various types of vehicles.
- 2.3 For this reason, testing contracts have required that testers employed at the testing stations should have been an approved MOT tester for at least two years before undertaking taxi testing work.
- 2.4 One of the testing stations has recently applied to have a tester approved for taxi testing duties. The tester, although qualified as a motor engineer and an approved MOT tester, does not meet the two years experience criterion. The testing station has stated that there is currently a shortage of experienced MOT testers and that it is therefore difficult to meet the contract requirements. Officers are aware that a similar situation exists in other parts of the garage trade.
- 2.5 In view of this, it is proposed that the two years post MOT experience requirement is reduced to a period of six months. This will allow more flexibility in employing staff on taxi testing duties, whilst still ensuring that staff have some post qualification testing experience, prior to being trained to undertake taxi testing duties. Enforcement officers will continue to monitor testing standards as part of the audit process to ensure that this change does not adversely affect testing standards.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	David Dowbenko tel 71 6268 e-mail <a href="mailto:dave.dowbenko@derby.gov.uk">dave.dowbenko@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. None.

**Legal**

2. None.

**Personnel**

3. None arising from this report.

**Equalities impact**

4. None.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5. These amendments contribute towards the Council's objective of **healthy, safe and independent communities**.