

REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY
TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
10th APRIL 2015

PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE THE NATIONAL INSPECTION STANDARDS
FOR INSPECTION OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES IN
SWANSEA

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Members to consider the proposal to introduce the National Inspection Standards for inspection of taxi and private hire vehicles licensed by the City and County of Swansea subject to consultation with the taxi and private hire trade and other interested parties.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A best practice guide has been produced by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Inspection Technical Officer Group. The current edition of the guide is attached at Appendix A to the report.
- 2.2 This guide sets out the procedures and criteria for those who carry out inspections of licensed vehicles with a view to securing acceptable and consistent standards, as well as providing a benchmark for local authorities with regard to vehicle inspections and safety.
- 2.3 The guidance is intended to be utilised in conjunction with the MOT Inspection Manual but it makes provision for additional testing requirements which are considered necessary and appropriate for licensed vehicles.
- 2.4 The Technical Officer Group comprises officers throughout England and Wales responsible for the inspection of licensed vehicles as well as some licensing officers/managers. Consideration of the guide is also recommended by the Vehicle and Operator Services Authority (VOSA) when local authorities are setting technical standards for taxi and private hire vehicles.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that the National Inspection Standards are introduced for inspection of taxi and private hire vehicles licensed by the City and County of Swansea, subject to consultation with the taxi and private hire trades and other interested parties.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that:

- i) A consultation is undertaken with the taxi and private hire trades and other interested parties on the proposal to introduce the National Inspections Standards for inspection of taxi and private hire vehicles licensed by the City and County of Swansea; and
- ii) A further report detailing the outcome of the consultation is presented to Members for consideration and decision regarding the way forward.

The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested.

Background Papers:	National Inspection Standards current edition
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