

Council – 22 February 2022 – Urgent Item

Agenda Item 16

Motion in the name of Councillor Shibley Alam

Hyde Driving Test Centre closure

That this Council notes

- The recent news that Hyde driving test centre is to close after decades of serving the learner drivers of Tameside and its surrounding areas.
- There is an extremely high demand in Tameside and Glossop for driving tests.
- The current waiting times are in excess of four months, and were under comparable pressure pre the Covid pandemic.
- Moving tests to Bredbury and Chadderton will not ease this problem, instead further exacerbating the pre-existing issues those centres already face with their own waiting lists.
- Furthermore, driving instructors were not consulted on the decision and many found out either through pupils or social media.

This Council believes that

- This decision will make learning to drive prohibitively expensive for some learners especially those from poorer backgrounds, depriving them of a valuable life skill.
- While the DVSA asserts that to take a driving test, learners should be able to drive in any location with there being no need to visit test centre areas for practice. In reality, this is an unfair situation to bestow on learners. First time test takers already have a very low first-time pass rate of approximately 45% - this decision would further disadvantage such learners.
- Should the decision take place, learners from across Tameside will struggle to reach Chadderton or Bredbury to practice in the local areas. Learners would be forced to do at least two hour lessons, struggling to spend adequate time in either the Bredbury or Chadderton areas to become familiar with and understand the roads.

This Council resolves to;

- To back the current campaign by local driving instructors to retain a testing facility in Tameside.
- To ask the Executive Leader and Chief Executive to write the DVSA - calling on them to work with local stakeholders and the Council to look for a suitable venue in the borough of Tameside, so a testing facility can continue to serve the learners of Tameside and its surrounding areas.