

INFORMAL MEETING PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE MINUTES

Thursday 18th June 2020 - Virtual Platform

Present:

Cllr Hilary Fairclough (HF)	(Chair) Executive Member/Chair of Licensing & Environmental Regulation Committee
Cllr Mudasir Dean (MD)	Vice Chair of Licensing & Environmental Regulation Committee
Kellie Hopkins (KH)	Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Elizabeth Pritchard (EP)	Principal Licencing Officer
Patricia Clyne (PC)	Principal Licensing Officer
Joe Fox (JF)	Principal Engineer
PC Andrew Vernon	Greater Manchester Police
Mohammed Akhtar (MA)	BPHA
Yasin Khan (YK)	BPHA

Apologies:

Charles Oakes (CO)	BBHA
Eddie Shah (ES)	BTDA

1.	Apologies
	Apologies for CO and ES – Technical issues.
2.	Minutes / actions from last meeting
	Previous minutes agreed.
3.	Digital Update
	<p>PC gave update on digital development. Advised the vehicle renewal form has been live since 03.06.2020, in use and going well. The driver renewal form has gone live today. Plans for a slicker process in line for end of 2020/start of 2021 that will include online payment. Next week starting the online process for Vehicle first grants.</p> <p>MA asked about DBS going online. PC advised we are currently completing DBS electronically. There is a draft report for the DBS online update service, which needs approval.</p> <p>MA asked about spent convictions being declared on DBS. PC advised not on DBS but needs to be included on application conviction declarations.</p> <p>YK asked how the medicals will be available now online. PC advised available for download from our website.</p>
4.	Safeguarding and Disability Awareness Training Update
	EP spoke to provider who have advised venue is currently closed. Digital provision is available but face2face has been successful and would like to continue. Agreed to see how the situation develops before change to digital.

	<p>MA raised there are some drivers that have attended and still haven't received a certificate. EP raised the issue with missing certs after the last meeting and has received the feedback that the only explanation is an incorrect email address must have been supplied. Confirmed not posted and asked MA to get specific examples to look into further.</p> <p>HF suggested if there was a digital provision for drivers to complete in the meantime. EP to look into.</p> <p>MD voiced how fantastic the uptake for drivers had been.</p> <p>ACTION MA to obtain examples of drivers to EP who haven't received their certificates.</p> <p>EP to look into alternative digital provisions.</p>
5/6	Clean Air Update & Minimum Licensing Standards
	<p>KH shared information regarding TFGM and the 10 authorities are continuing to progress with the Clean Air Zone. Consultation is to commence October 2020 and include the minimum licensing standards. Grant has been approved for £26 million from the government, how this will be used and split through the trade is yet to be agreed.</p> <p>YK asked what time frames are being looked at and what incentives will there be to assist drivers. KH advised won't be implemented until 2022 and how the grant will be distributed has not been confirmed but the trade will be kept informed.</p> <p>YK discussed the costs of a new electric vehicle and additional costs for minibuses. KH confirmed this has been raised at the steering groups and options were being looked into such as finance and leasing. Dispensation for vehicles with disability access, tail lifts etc being discussed. Trade will be asked to feed into the consultation.</p>
7.	Ranks/train station
	<p>JF discussed the removal of the rank outside Paderborn House a few years ago. There has been pressure to put the rank back and this was sent to the cabinet in December. HF advised will chase and asked JF to confirm was sent.</p> <p>JF discussed had plans with CO to do a walk round town centre to look at ranks, been postponed due to current climate.</p> <p>JF discussed changes to parking and hackney carriage rank at train station. New 12 bays for public to use. YK enquired if there is any drop off/pick up points for private hire to use. JF advised nothing specific, just as it is now. YK asked if there could be something specific just for private hire vehicles. JF to look into if some of the new bays could be just for private hire use.</p> <p>YK also discussed issued of pickup/drop off at outdoor market. Only available area is outside the old bingo hall but challenged by parking enforcement officers. PC advised need to speak to Parking services and refresh information.</p> <p>JF discussed social distancing measures being put in place in town centre. Red and white barriers and signage in use to extend the width of the footpaths from Topp way car park all the way through to the train station. Parking bays, hackney</p>

	<p>rank and loading bays all affected. Similar to happen on Ashburner Street next week.</p> <p>ACTION JF to look into specific area at train station for private hire vehicles. PAC to liaise with parking services.</p>
8.	Face coverings
	<p>EP discussed how government have brought in regulations for all passengers on public transport are now required to wear face coverings. However private hire and hackney carriages are not included in this and we cannot force the public to wear face coverings.</p> <p>Guidance is currently being pulled together and will be distributed next week. UBER have recently made it mandatory for all their drivers and passengers to wear face coverings. If all operators make it mandatory, then drivers will be in their right to refuse journeys.</p> <p>YK discussed how there is confusion with passengers who think they have to wear them. Operators have approached trade reps looking for guidance. Worried if they refuse customer without face coverings, they will lose business if not all operators are following the same guidance. KH advised that we want to support what the trade want and if they could formally request in writing what that is it will strengthen our message out to trade. YK advised only way all operator will follow is if the council says it has to be done. PAC advised we cannot enforce it but can strongly advise and make recommendations. Possibly look into publicity to promote.</p> <p>KH advised CCG have approached wanting to work with the trade as they have a high number affected by the current situation. Further information will be shared.</p> <p>ACTION PC/EP to send out guidance regarding face coverings.</p>
9.	Enforcement now and in the future
	Moved to next meeting in CO absence
10.	Agreement between Council and Trade Reps
	Moved to next meeting in CO absence
11.	A.O.B
	<p>YK enquired about CCTV. PC advised it is on the agenda but has taken a back step during the current climate.</p> <p>YK asked for an answer on screens in vehicles. EP directed to update that was sent 01.06.2020. We are neutral and it is the driver's responsibility to ensure doesn't affect insurance, fitted safely etc. KH advised it is being discussed nationally and will be kept informed.</p> <p>KH enquired about the trade numbers working. YK confirmed the trade is slowly returning to work.</p> <p>End of meeting – Trade were invited to stay to speak with GM Growth Hub.</p>

Next meeting: 10th September 2020