

INFORMAL MEETING PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE

MINUTES

Thursday 10th December 2020

Virtual Platform

Present:

Cllr Hilary Fairclough (HF)	Chair (Chair)
Cllr Mudasir Dean (MD)	Executive Member
Kellie Hopkins (KH)	Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Elizabeth Pritchard (EP)	Principal Licencing Officer
Patricia Clyne (PC)	Principal Licensing Officer
Mohammed Akhtar (MA)	BPHA
Yasif Khan (YK)	BPHA
Charles Oakes (CO)	BBHA
Eddie Shah (ES)	BTDA

Apologies:

Ben Brookfield	Greater Manchester Police
Jo Fox	Principal Engineer Highways

1.	Apologies
	Above.
2.	Minutes / actions from last meeting
	Agreed.
3.	Minimum Licensing Standards Consultation Update
	<p>KH advised consultation ended last week and the analysis won't be back for a couple of months. Just short of 6000 responses full and partial (1560 full). Bolton had 136 responses. 3 from Hackney Drivers, 70 from Private Hire drivers and rest from members of public, elected members etc. Bolton had second largest response.</p> <p>Representations have been made to extend/allow further consultation due to Covid19 making it more difficult due to lack of face 2 face contact, meetings etc.</p> <p>CO shared feelings of the trade that it is a done deal, no matter if they complete questionnaire, feedback etc because the government is pushing for it.</p> <p>HF discussed how no response gives the impression there are no issues with the proposals and how if no one speaks up nothing will be done.</p> <p>Group discussion and agreement the form was not user friendly.</p> <p>Awaiting feedback on consultation and extension request.</p>
4.	DBS Update
	PC outlined that a report will be going to executive members in new year to move DBS to update service, annual subscription. Further information will be provided next year.

5.	Covid19 Update
	<p>EP confirmed face covering stickers had gone out to trade. Hackney and small operators were posted, and PH reps kindly delivered to the larger operators.</p> <p>EP also advised depending on what changes take place in regard to the towns tier, the taxi marshals will be introduced if required.</p> <p>YK asked if we were providing face masks. EP advised waiting to see if any can be obtained.</p>
6.	Taxi Ranks
	<p>MD explained how the new town centre hotel had delayed the process, but a temporary feeder rank has been approved outside Beales/Sports Direct. Good news for the hackney trade, only temporary but will make them more visible.</p> <p>CO asked about the Nelson Square rank. MD confirmed site visit is required but been put on hold due to the current climate. Will discuss with Cllr Haslam.</p> <p>MD advised the train station plans has been sent back to be updated with more details.</p> <p>ES and CO both raised issues regarding not being consulted on the relocation and reconfiguration of the rank at the train station. MD advised when updated plans received will be able to make comment. However, it was confirmed that JF had supplied copies of the plans pre March 2020.</p>
7.	Dual Badges
	<p>Discussion between trade reps around who would be able to have a dual badge.</p> <p>PC advised if approved all drivers would be able to apply but clarity would be needed in relation to what licence was being used, for example declaration of convictions etc. Will do away with the need for two badges and is going to be looked into in line with MLS.</p> <p>CO discussed how even with a dual licence the requirement that only hackney carriages can ply for hire etc will remain.</p> <p>ES agreed that drivers would need to be educated to understand the difference.</p>
8.	A.O.B
	<p>MA raised concerns of drivers home address and DOB being given out by operators to customers.</p> <p>PC to speak to Metro for further information.</p> <p>YK advised no private hire would be increasing Christmas fares, PC advised we have received some requests to increase.</p>

Next meeting: 12th March 2021