

INFORMAL MEETING PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE

MINUTES

Thursday 11th March 2021

Virtual Platform

Present:

Cllr Hilary Fairclough (HF)	Chair (Chair)
Cllr Mudasir Dean (MD)	Vice Chairman
Kellie Hopkins (KH)	Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Elizabeth Pritchard (EP)	Principal Licensing Officer
Patricia Clyne (PC)	Principal Licensing Officer
Mohammed Akhtar (MA)	BPHA
Yasif Khan (YK)	BPHA
Charles Oakes (CO)	BBHA
Joe Fox (JF)	Principal Engineer Highways

Apologies:

Ben Brookfield	Greater Manchester Police
Eddie Shah	BTDA

1. Apologies	
	Above.
2. Minutes / actions from last meeting	
	Agreed.
3. Filming on Le-Mans Crescent	
	<p>JF advised there is going to be a full closure of the civic centre for nearly a week. Paderborn hackney carriage rank will be relocated to outside Deansgate Post Office. Will be from approximately 25th March 2021 but subject to change due to filming requirements.</p> <p>CO asked if it will be sign posted and JF confirmed can put up temporary signage.</p>
4. Relocation of hackney stand at the train station	
	<p>JF confirmed the work is due to start on 22nd March 2021. The proposals have already been shared regarding the relocation of the taxi stand from the private TFGM land to Trinity Street. JF discussed how the trade had requested more bays but it has been done fairly. Half for trade use and half for general use.</p> <p>MA asked what the time limit would be for private hire vehicles to use bays as often bookings made from customers on the train so can be waiting longer than usual. JF was open to discussion and advised parking bays cannot be given on public highway, 20mins was posed as an acceptable time.</p> <p>CO raised concerns of the parking being abused by drivers. JF confirmed they are running lanes one way in, one way out and cannot be used for parking up. The</p>

	goal is to get rid of the issues for all three users: Hackney Carriages, Private Hire and the general public.
5.	Vehicle spot check update
	EP discussed how the spot checks were taking place this week following the earlier press release. The current feedback was really good, and officers reported less issues with vehicles on inspection. Licensed vehicles are being maintained and EP wanted to thank the trade.
6.	Covid19 (road map) (driver testing - asymptomatic)
	EP advised how following the government guidance the night-time economy is due to fully reopen again from 21 st June 2021 (subject to change). With this in mind the Taxi marshals are going to be reinstated. PAC emphasised the importance of encouraging the trade to get tested.
7.	Press release refresh (do's and don'ts for members of public)
	EP discussed how the usual yearly press release at Christmas wasn't done last year due to Covid, so is going to be done in line with the reopening of hospitality. EP advised happy to include quotes from the trade reps and confirmed we really want to push the message of using Bolton licensed drivers. If trade have anything to include EP requested, they let her know.
8.	Garages retender
	EP advised the new contracts for the garages is to be awarded in August this year. Tenders go out May/June and garages need to be registered on 'The Chest' to be notified. CO asked if the number of garages will stay the same. EP confirmed we can have up to six, currently have five.
9.	EV Taxi Project - site selection webpage engagement
	PC reminded trade that the consultation is still live for electric vehicle charging points in Bolton. So far no communications have been received from Bolton drivers. End date for comments is 14 th March 2021. On the website a map can be seen showing all the suggested locations. CO questioned whether these points would be for trade only. PC advised her understanding would be yes but not sure how that would work. Details are on the website and these questions should be raised with them during this consultation.
10.	Grants
	KH confirmed a meeting with the leader and finance has been held with trade reps previously and discussions are ongoing. YK made comments on other councils grant sizes. KH Advised Bolton has second largest fleet in Greater Manchester so the funding has to go further.
11.	Medical

	YK raised issues he had experienced submitting his application and obtaining required documents from doctors. YK to speak to PC separately as personal issue.
12.	Licence fees
	<p>YK raised concern over the fees being higher than other authorities and since moving online for applications expected a reduction.</p> <p>PC advised, as discussed at previously meetings, work is still ongoing, officers are recording time spent on each activity and as it develops, we will share some details.</p> <p>KH reminded reps that all aspects of licensing are included in the fees not just the application process, licences, enforcement, meetings, livery etc.</p>
13.	Train Station
	Agreed has been covered at point 4.
14.	A.O.B
	<p>CO raised concerns over waiting time when trying to speak to the contact centre.</p> <p>PC advised will raise with that team. Hopefully once new digital system in place this will include payment and may resolve the issue.</p>

Next meeting: 10th June 2021