

## INFORMAL MEETING PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE

### MINUTES

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Virtual Platform

#### Present:

Cllr Hilary Fairclough (HF)	Chair (Chair)
Cllr Maureen Flitcroft (MF)	Vice Chairman
Jon Dyson (JD)	Director of Place
Patricia Clyne (PC)	Licensing and Enforcement Manager
Steve Morris (SM)	Senior Enforcement Officer
Lisa Timmins (LT)	Senior Licensing Officer
Joe Fox (JF)	Principal Engineer Highways
Andrew Bolan (AB)	Head of Regulatory Services
Mohammed Akhtar (MA)	BPHA
Yasif Khan (YK)	BPHA
Charles Oakes (CO)	BBHA
Majid Riaz (MR)	On behalf of Mr Shah

#### Apologies:

Eddie Shah BTDA

<b>1. Apologies</b>	
	Above.
<b>2. Minutes / actions from last meeting</b>	
	N/A
<b>3. Garages retender</b>	
	<p>SM advised the tender application period had closed and six garages had applied. All six garages have been visited by PC, SM and a qualified officer from Bolton Councils garage.</p> <p>Three garages have met the initial requirements and are undergoing the final checks before approval.</p> <p>CO made comments regarding the number of garages reducing. HF advised can only award to garages that apply and meet the requirements.</p> <p>CO wanted information re the three who were unsuccessful. PC confirmed would be inappropriate to share whilst tender process is still ongoing.</p>
<b>4. EV Taxi Project</b>	
	<p>JF provided an update on the three electric charging sites being installed on surface level car parks in the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eagle Street</li><li>• Egerton Street</li><li>• Willows Lane</li></ul> <p>6/8 existing bays are going to be removed and replaced with 5/6 rapid charging bays. No timescale of when this will be done but site visits have been completed.</p>

	<p>CO asked if one is going to be installed at the train station. JF advised the three carparks are the first to be done but there has been provision built in at the station to consider in the future.</p> <p>CO questioned who can use the points and made comments on the amount of points in relation to vehicles. JF clarified will be for Taxi and Private Hire use only and this is the first phase.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>DBS update service</b>
	<p>LT advised DBS update service is covered under part 1 of the MLS which has now been approved. All drivers need to be on the update service in the next 12 months. To register with the update service drivers will require a new DBS.</p> <p>Any DBS renewals completed from now will be added to the update service and all other drivers who have existing DBS's will be brought in to resubmit and join the service.</p> <p>Plans currently in discussion how this will be done.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Grants</b>
	<p>LT confirmed all stage 1 ARG applications have now been approved for payment.</p> <p>Next stage is to look at vehicle renters. LT/PC to sort out application form and criteria for applications.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>MLS</b>
	<p>PC discussed the meeting held last week with trade reps and the issues raised over stage 2. The suggestion was put forward to hold a separate meeting to discuss just Stage 2 MLS.</p> <p>JD advised the trade they need to share the key issues so these can be looked at. He and PC are meeting and working with the other nine Greater Manchester authorities and need to have all the information.</p> <p>CO raised his concerns regarding the grants and advised the trade will not be able to afford it.</p> <p>YK advised his concern related to the age policy.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Digital updates</b>
	<p>PC gave an update regarding the digital online provision for licensing. Currently scheduled for spring 2022 which will include online payments.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>What's the procedure for dual badges and the fees etc.</b>
	<p>RM raised in Mr Shahs' absence.</p> <p>PC confirmed part of stage 1 MLS. Going to start the piece of work next year looking into dual badges. LT will compile a list of all drivers who hold a HC and PH licence.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Vehicles that are already plated will they be under the new rule of 10 years or still the 15-year age limit</b>
	<p>RM raised in Mr Shahs' absence.</p> <p>PC confirmed as per last week's meeting the age proposal for hackney carriages has now changed to 15 years. But has not yet been approved.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>1st Grants</b>

	<p>YK discussed drivers complaining about time taken to receive first grant vehicles. LT confirmed her team are meeting targets but advised delays could be due to drivers not submitting all required documents. LT asked for details of drivers to look into.</p> <p>YK advised it was the time it takes in the post to be received that is the issue and requested collections.</p> <p>PC advised OSS still closed so collections cannot be facilitated at the moment. All first grants are sent first class so PC asked YK for some examples then we can see what the timescale is between us issuing and the drivers commencing work.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<p>MA advised drivers have reported being unable to get through to make payment for their applications and having to wait 30minutes to get through.</p> <p>JD confirmed the contact centre have experienced high staff losses recently but are working on recruitment. JD agreed its not acceptable and will raise with their management.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Agendas related colour coded cars</b>
	YK confirmed covered under point 7
<b>14.</b>	<b>Uber Documents</b>
	<p>MA explained still experiencing issues with Uber accepting documents and asking drivers to attend the hub to copy licence with 'paper'. MA stated Uber have advised it is Bolton Council policy.</p> <p>PC advised we have no such policy and don't understand what the issue is.</p> <p>LT to investigate, asked MA to provide name of driver who experienced the issue then can look into further.</p>
<b>15.</b>	<b>A.O.B</b>
	<p>YK raised issues with train station and right turn filter being removed. Traffic backing up to past Sainsburys. Also issues at McDonalds/Derby Street junction and College/Moor lane junction. JF to look into.</p> <p>YK asked about electric scooters and what laws are they covered by. Very dangerous, no lights and used on roads at night, LT to make enquires with GMP.</p> <p>CO discussed previously asking for rank back on Bradshawgate outside memorial. JF agreed to complete site visit to see if viable due to traffic island and right turn junction into Silverwell Street. CO asked members to also attend. MF and HF agreed to attend if available.</p> <p>MA asked when the taxi bays at the train station would be available. JF advised been some delay due to electrical issues with the street lighting, this has now been resolved but will be a minimum of three weeks.</p>

**Next meeting: TBC**