

Minutes of Hackney Carriage Meeting – 3rd November 2016

Present

Chiragh Khalid	Bradford Hackney Carriage Association
Tariq Mahmood	Bradford Hackney Carriage Association
Shabbir Master	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Mohammad M Khan	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Shabir Munir	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Tahir Riaz	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Licensing Service Portfolio Holder
Geoff Binnington	Fleet Services Principal Officer
Carol Stos	HCPH Licensing Service Manager
Dennis Rowe	HCPH Licensing Compliance Officer (Note taker on the day)

1. Introductions & Apologies

Matthew Bibby Licensing Support & Systems Officer

Licensing Manager introduced the HCPH Licensing portfolio holder, Councillor Sarah Ferriby. Councillor Ferriby briefly spoke about her role, thanked everyone for their attendance and handed over to officers to begin the meeting.

2. Last Minutes – feedback of actions

The last meeting scheduled for 6th October 2016 was cancelled on request by trade representatives due to bereavement. For the purpose of this meeting the Service would discuss submissions brought forward by the trade representatives present today followed by an update from Officers.

Trade representative submissions

3. Ranks Update

Trade representatives explained that the practice of both private hire vehicles and privately owned vehicles parking in hackney carriage ranks continues. On advice from the Licensing Service trade reps contacted BMDC Parking Services to report this only to be referred back to the Licensing Service. Representatives spoke about being subjected to aggressive behaviour from some PHV drivers when asking them to move from ranks. Officers asked that all such incidents be reported to the Service and they would be investigated.

Cllr Ferriby commented that it was also important to continue to log incidents of illegal parking in ranks via Council Contacts (431000) that way a picture would be built up when such incidents occur. Officers confirmed they would speak with Parking Services re their response to the trade.

Action: Officers to contact Parking Services to discuss their alleged response to the trade and illegal parking of cars in hackney carriage ranks

4. Out of Area Vehicles

Trade representatives spoke about the continued presence of out of area hackney vehicles working within the BMDC. Officers explained that the numbers had reduced significantly since condition changes introduced 17th August 2016. At a recent meeting of Licensing Chairs 19th October 2016, Rossendale Council reaffirmed a commitment to enforce their intended use policy regarding HC vehicles licensed in Rossendale working in other areas. Officers advised trade representative to contact Rossendale Licensing Service directly and pass on to them any information regarding Rossendale HC vehicles working within BMDC.

Action: Officers to forward contact details of Rossendale enforcement team to trade representatives

5. Ply for Hire- Forster Square

Trade representatives spoke about a concern that PHV were plying for hire predominately around the Forster Square train station, this was despite providing the Licensing Service with pictures show this alleged practice taking place. Officers explained that an investigation by enforcement officers concluded that the still images provided showed the normal practice associated with the dropping off and picking up of passengers intending to use the train station and not 'ply for hire'. However, Officers would continue to monitor the situation.

Licensing Service Submissions

6. Proposed Conditions Changes (hand out attached to minutes)

Officers introduced to the trade representative a hand out document detailing proposed conditions changes for consideration. Officers asked the Trade Reps to take five minutes to familiarise themselves with the proposals before continuing with the meeting.

1. Suitability of employees working for operator/proprietors
2. Employee Charter/ Code of Conduct
3. Displaying Safeguarding information in licensed vehicles
4. Fitment of In- Car Closed Circuit TV Systems (CCTV)
5. Amendment to HC/PHV licensing policy following Deregulation Act 2015
6. Vehicle Safety Maintenance

A trade representative enquired about the level of specification that would be required for a camera to be fitted in his vehicle. Officers clarified that the conditions as outlined in the document would be subject to consultation via a snap survey of all licensed drivers. Full details on how this process will be undertaken are still being finalised once this is done trade representative would be updated. However, officers would make available a camera specification document that is currently being used by Rotherham Council and that would likely be the standard that the Licensing Service would adopt.

Action: Officers to forward Camera Specification Document to HC Trade Reps

7. Training Update

Officers explained that 3 years ago elected members introduced a licencing condition requiring all licenced drivers to attend modular training by no later than September 2016, and for this to be repeated every three years thereafter. In September 2016 the Licensing Service determined that a significant number of drivers had still to attend modular training and sought permission, from Elected Members, for a one-off extension of the deadline to 31 December 2016. This was agreed subject to no further extension.

Officers also explained that an introduction to wheelchair clamping had been provided for WAV drivers during modular training but this did not constitute competence training and it was (and always had been) the responsibility of Operators/Proprietors to ensure that wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) drivers had attended an appropriate course which deemed them competent. Drivers who have undertaken training prior to 6th of March 2015 and have in their possession training certificates which include the wording "Safety and Security of Wheelchair Passengers" on their modular training certificate would be deemed to have undergone the Wheelchair training and would not be required to hold two separate certificates of competency. If there is no mention of "Safety and Security of Wheelchair Passengers" on the certificate drivers would need to have completed two separate courses and be in receipt of two separate certificates. The certificates are valid 3 years from the date they were received.

WAV drivers are required to hold proof of competence (Wheelchair training) certification (which is a separate certificate from the modular training certificate if completed after 06/03/2015). These certificates are valid 3 years from the date they were received.

Note: If a driver has not completed their modular training and WAV drivers their wheelchair clamping training, by 31st December 2016 further action will be taken which may lead to a suspension of licence. All drivers will be required to produce their modular, and where applicable wheelchair clamping, certificates when re-licencing from Jan 2017. HC proprietors and drivers have been made aware of the situation through email correspondence and licensing website updates. Recently enforcement officers have been visiting ranks and handing out information in the form of letters to reinforce this message.

Trade rep asked if it would be possible to move Friday training day to another day or amend the time training took place on Fridays to accommodate Friday prayers.

Action: Officer agreed to look at the possibility of changing date or time of Friday training

8. Proposal to move hackney carriage rank

Officers informed the Trade Reps that there is a proposal to move the Bridge Street hackney carriage rank to the layby across the road and use the old rank as a parking area.

Trade Reps spoke about concerns that if the rank was moved to the layby across the road, HC vehicles may have difficulty turning around due to a large kerb. Officers clarified that any changes of use of the hackney carriage rank would be subject to consultation and approval.

It was suggested that Parking and City Centre Services Manager be asked to meet with Reps to work through the detail of the proposal and concerns.

Action: Officer to ask Parking and City Centre Services Manager to meet with HC Trade Reps.

9. Anti- Social- Behaviour Update

Officers spoke about a meeting that had taken place with the Leader, WY Police, Cllr Ferriby, Officers and several Licenced Operators. At this meeting, Superintendent Dan Greenwood committed to working with the trade in tackling ASB related issues against drivers that have occurred in Holme Wood and other areas of Bradford. Officer's explained that there was a perception amongst some members of the public that hackney carriage and private hire licensed drivers work directly for BMDC, which they don't. It is important that proprietors / operators are aware that if they knowingly send drivers or accept bookings in potentially at risk areas if subsequently an incident occurs they may be held responsible.

Operators/proprietors had a duty of care not only for driver's actions but also for their welfare. A list of WY NPT Inspectors is to be circulated to trade representatives.

Officers explained to HC Trade Reps that Incidents of Anti- Social- behaviour against drivers can be reported directly to the Police ASB hub where all calls will be treated with discretion or alternatively incidents can be reported anonymously.

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Action: Officers to forward a list of NPT Inspectors to HC Trade Reps

End of meeting