

Minutes of the York Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Associations

15 May 2023

Attendees

David Cowley, Taxi Licensing Manager, City of York Council (LC) - Chair

Hannah Boxall, SAG Co-ordinator, City of York Council (HB)

Alfie Thompson, Senior Licensing Assistant, City of York Council (AT)

William Swords, Station Taxis (WS)

Wendy Loveday, York Private Hire Association (WL)

Muhammad Suloman, ITA (MS)

Daniel Smith, ITA (DS)

Nazif Erimhan, York Taxi Association (NE)

Arfan Asif, York Taxi Association (AA)

		Action Log
1.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>The associations agreed the minutes of the previous meeting to be a true and accurate record</p>	
2.	<p>Taxi and Private Hire Trade Forum Agreement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- shared a draft set of common standards for associations. Welcomed members feedback on whether these standards are fit for purpose 2. MW- suggested that there should be a limit of at least 25% of vehicles in agreement for the group become an association and disallowing double membership 3. DC- highlighted S3 on the document as a point to consider and asked for all feedback via e-mail 	
3.	<p>Enforcement /Garage Testing Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- explained that there have been recent changes to staff in the enforcement. Currently in the process of changing how night enforcement works. Will also look at doing 'ad-hoc' student nights to cover mid-week events 2. DC- looking at doing a plain clothed plying for hire operation 3. DS- expressed the importance of enforcing the plying for hire operations. Explained that he has had unpleasant personal encounters that he has had when trying to prevent plying for hire 4. WL- suggested having enforcement staff after 2am. 5. DC- now have use of the NR3 register that shows every driver that has been suspended, refused, or revoked. This is checked on every new application and renewal. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. DC- expressed concerns with drivers bringing clearly unfit vehicles into the garage to be tested. Is looking at publishing a vehicle standards list 7. DC- there has also been issues with people still working under S68 notices 8. AM- suggested that if a vehicle fails for a minor reason that can be fixed very quickly, the driver should not have to pay for a new test. Suggested changing the second test fee to a lower charge 9. DC- the re-test conditions mirror that of the MOT standards. Will consider what standards can be rechecked for free and what will need to be charged again for. 10. AA- expressed the importance of maintaining high standards, free rechecks could lower this standard 11. DC- is working with the garage to improve the availability for retests. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>CCTV and Training PCC Funding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- has got funding to help bring new drivers into York; will be able to offer a free knowledge test for the first 100 drivers from June to December. 2. WS- suggested considering the difficulty of the knowledge test, it is encouraging drivers to be licenced with other councils as they are more likely to pass 3. DC- the results are analysed and if certain areas of the test seem too hard the questions will be changed 4. WS- quoted legislation stating that Private Hire vehicles are not legally obliged to take this knowledge test, suggested that making them do this test is providing another barrier for them to get their licence with York 5. AA- suggested separating PH and HC knowledge tests 6. DS- advised that there is an operator in York that is encouraging new drivers not to be licenced with York 7. DC- requested DS puts this to Taxi Licensing formal complaint so that enforcement action can be undertaken 8. WS- expressed that the policies on use of bus lanes for in York needs to be changed to only allow local taxis access, reiterated that this is encouraging out of town vehicles to come into York 9. DC- this was changed to allow Private Hire vehicles access to the bus lanes. Will look at improving CCTV in bus lanes 10. WS- suggested an intended use policy for the use of bus lanes 11. DC- also have received more funding for CCTV in vehicles 	<p>DC to action</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>DVLA Driving licence points, check codes, drive tech</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- the policy has gone out for full consultation. Welcomed feedback on the policy once it goes to Public Consultation 	

	<p>2. DC- has sent an e-mail to all drivers to renew their mandate on Drive Tech before the renewal period</p>	
6.	<p>Fares and Refusal of Fares</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- fare process has not been set yet, it is on a report to be discussed in the next committee meeting 2. WS- the process of getting committee approval is excessively long 3. DC- will look to put dates to processes to speed them up 4. DC- have had a lot of reports about drivers refusing fares for unlawful reasons. If complaints are received, we will consider if the refusal was reasonable. If it was not reasonable it is illegal. 5. DC- asked members to generate complaints to Taxi Licensing when they see unreasonable refusal of fares 	
7.	<p>August Bank Holiday</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- York Races, Leeds Festival and the Balloon Festival are all taking place over the August Bank Holiday weekend- this will have a huge impact on the roads in and around York. 	
8.	<p>Additional Licence Conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WL- are the new conditions being abided by? 2. DC- one operator is in full compliance another operator is up for appeal in court 	
9.	<p>York City Centre Taxi Access</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WL- asked for Taxi Licensing's support in allowing taxis transporting blue badge holders access into the City Centre once the HVM measures are in place 2. DC- WL to put the request into an e-mail for consideration 	
10.	<p>York Race Days</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WL- Asked for the presence of the Enforcement Officers on a Race Day, specifically around Cambleshon Road 2. AA- suggested doing joint operations 3. DC- will continue presence on as many race days as it is possible to cover 	
11.	<p>The Groves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WL- all of the main routes to the hospital have been closed, the Lobby Council will be requesting support from CYC licensing 2. DC – asked for any information to be sent via emails so it can be considered. 	

12.	West Yorkshire Licensing Conditions	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WL- Wakefield have removed their 7 points conditions, expressed disapproval of this still being the case in York's policy 2. DC- any feedback on York's policy needs to be sent formally during the consultation period 	
13.	Long Term View for Taxiing	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WS- expressed concerns regarding Uber, suggested bringing in policies to stop the issues Uber bring into York 2. DC- is looking into different methods of promoting local knowledge and enforcement strategies 3. WS- suggested localising bus lanes 4. AM- suggested removing the statement about not taking digital payments and adding taxi ranks to electronic maps to promote the use of local taxis 5. DC- AM to send suggestions to DC 	
14.	Council Policy on New Plates	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WS- advised that the policy for new electric vehicles in is creating a barrier to entry. WS explained that hybrid/ electric vehicles are impractical for taxis due to the long times they spend driving, the lack of charging points and the time it would take to change them. Adding wheelchair accessible vehicles also does not improve the accessibility of wheelchair accessible vehicles 2. DC- asked WS to put this into writing on an e-mail for further consideration 	
15.	Tinted Windows	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- Tinted windows are part of the policy, recommended all drivers fill out questionnaire when it goes to public consultation 	
16.	Out of Town Vehicles on Taxi ranks	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- encouraged York drivers to report this if they see this happening 2. DS- raised issues with queueing at Duncombe Place, suggesting adding 'queue here' signage on the floor 3. AM- expressed the importance of marshalling that taxi rank 	
17.	Drivers Cherry Picking Jobs	
	Covered under item 6	

18.	<p>Line Making for Taxi Ranks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC- will schedule in a meeting with CYC Highways department to discuss this 2. DC- considering bus lanes that aren't in use over night as Taxi Ranks, asked for members consideration and feedback 3. DC- Action to schedule a meeting with CYC developments team to discuss Stalemate Rank and the developments nearby 	DC
	Next meeting date: TBC	DC