

Minutes of the York Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Associations
4th December 2024

Attendees

Dave Cowley	Taxi Licensing Manager
Martin Bisby	Licencing Officer
Matt Boxall	Public Protection Manger
Damian Niazi	Independent Taxi Association
Alan Brewer	York Taxi Association Group
Darren Avey	Station Taxis
Danny Smith	York Taxi Association Group
Naz Erimhan	York Taxi Association
AJ Smith	York Taxi Association Group
Gary Graham	Independent Taxi Association
Arshad Mahmood	York City Taxis
Justin Wortley	Station Taxis
Apologies	
Neil Rowley	York Private Hire Association

		Action Log
	Introductions DC welcome to the meeting, Highways have agreed to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams	
1. 1.2	Minutes of last meeting Agreed as correct	MAB
2.0 2.1	Taxi Licensing Policy DC, Policy along with representations will be submitted to a full council meeting on the 21 st November 2024, Policy made available to association representatives. Main changes are to tinted glass, we have looked at the factory fitted tint of 30 -20- with 5 being limousine privacy glass. Public feed back gave concern that limo tint was too dark and they wouldn't feel safe. The proposed limit is 30% this gives more scope for the purchase of vehicles. AB, commented that previous vehicles with factory fitted glass DC, explained that now it would be all way found from the B posts at 30% DC, Insurance and logbooks (V5c) to be in the Proprietors name.	

	Proprietors renting plates is illegal and must stop. This practice may ultimately put the proprietor into the not fit and proper category. DC, gave the example, the proprietor must insure the vehicle as per the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act, Section 50, Fleet policies are acceptable along with the schedule. Legislation if the driver ensures the vehicle the owner has no liability cover, this is repeated in the best practice guide along with having a current basic DBS certificate as a requirement. DS, asked a question regarding family members, DC replied we consider that the lead proprietor is the person who is first named and signs the application form. DC, HC and PH proprietors must have a basic DBS which will last for 12 months, further explanation on extended proprietors names and the reasons why (to protect the families interest / assets). DC, emissions, does everyone understand the standards? DS, can't understand why Plug in and not Hybrid is cleaner DC, we check the website for the rating at checkcardetails DS, so if we buy a 2 year old car to drive it for 8 years, then repeat the process? Bradford vehicles are driving around with blacked out windows. AM, the 75g line what if a vehicle is 76g? DC, we would look at it. MB, the policy is designed to promote cleaner vehicles, and we are striving to achieve the clean air policy. DS, you are pushing people into applying to Wolverhampton licences, I have two friends who are encouraged to take York licence. DC, there is a debate in parliament with representation (from MP Rachel Maskell), to the transport minister is looking into the Deregulation Act. DS, with the cost of living it's impossible to make a living, the York Christmas market was full of Uber's DC, explained that the Wakefield case with regards to fees, HCD numbers have increased, and the drivers chase the money with having a dual badge enables them at quiet times on the HCV to go and work as PH. DS, I nearly got T-Boned by uber 3 vehicles. AM, commented that the policy goes against the trade. DC explained that vehicle ages in Leeds and North Yorkshire were 7 and 10 respectively. AS, why can't you charge depending on location, London can? DC, the new policy gives a choice, you can still go diesel, (gave examples of vehicles available) DA, what can make Uber observe CYC rules DC, that at another agenda point. DA, it's not stopping but must abide. MB, we can't stop it, its deregulation	
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	MB, reiterated the act, it is forbidden to stop, CYC have to apply the act and applicants must follow CYC policy. DC, quoted figures of Manchester and mentioned it is in progress. Refer all contraventions to the originating authority. DN said that there was no outcome from the local authorities.DS, commented that there was no enforcement visible at the weekends. DM said there was no interest from BTP . Roof signs DC, said there is a need to move away from the little signs and will standardise the roof sign size. Fire extinguishers no longer needed in saloons, however still a requirement for 8 seat / WAV. DC, emissions will remain status quo until 2027 with an offset for euro 5 – WAV's until 2030. Drivers DC, DBS update service subscription is mandatory with the statutory guidelines. AB, didn't know about the update service, who takes the money DC, our staff has explained this in letters about how the process works, currently we less than a third of drivers subscribing. Helene Vergereau from Highways joined the meeting via Teams DA, it's a nightmare at peak times, a 2 mile journey takes 20 minutes and 37 minutes to return. What can be done to move traffic, over the last 2 years the cut throughs have been closed, redirected on main roads and gridlocked. Reply inaudible. DN replied it's not creating green environment, we live in a tourist city, how does tourists move about, HCV can't get past Sat Nav tourist vehicles. DB, use the bus lanes. DA, questioned that highways have no policy in place to help to help. HV, reply inaudible directed to Councillor Ravilious DA, are policy makers taking into account our wishes. MB, replied to HV in regards hierarchy, HCV above on the list over general public, if this isn't working which is what our meeting is suggesting HV, reply inaudible DC is the information on open website to share link AM, what powers exist on bus lane / ANPR enforcement, signs are not enforced should make it difficult for out-of-town cars HV reply inaudible AM, HCV are on the whitelist for parking services why are PHV out of town vehicles on the white list DC, allowing HCV, PHV, to use the bus lane, if PHV are allowed then CYC must allow all out of town to use the bus lanes, parking looking at permitted vehicles quoting Medway started such a	
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	scheme but had to be scrapped due to interpretation, there is no defined answer. Referred to working and research with highways. AM. mentioned the Christmas market and enforcement DC, replied that it had to be an authorised officer that deals with the offences HV, reply inaudible. DS, mentioned that 3 cars every night doing illegal right turn into MB, there are limitations to the resources available to enforcement. HV, reply inaudible. AS, you are unable to see the vehicles. DC, if you send emails, photographs to the local authority, please copy CYC licensing in. GG, it's all very well having pictures with no one on the streets. DC, explained we now have cameras in position and can concentrate on one area before moving on. MB, possibly moving solved the problem and able to concentrate on another area. AB, the policy about walking and cycling, hospital visit fare has doubled, need to use the ambulance entrance. DC, that is up to the ambulance service, there is a trial ongoing with a company to see if it is feasible to open to HCV. DS, the issue with roundabouts was 2 lanes, it is now too dangerous as 2 lanes merge into 1 with wooden posts erected. DC, will forward details AB, you're penalising people who can't afford it DA, any LEV Zones / charges coming in? HV, reply inaudible. AM Mickle gate, what's the next camera? HV reply inaudible. HV, left the meeting. DA, is Nessgate better for results, not Micklegate? DC, now CYC have powers, it means we can roll it out progressively. DN, why not done properly for bus lanes? MB, don't go in it. DA, who decided on shortening bus lane at racecourse? Drivetech, DC, we have to check DVLA licences, more than 7 Penalty Points will be enough to revoke a licence, other authorities have higher points. New drivers must have less than 7 points on application, 3 – 6 points will receive a letter warning to be careful, 6,7,8 and 9 points will be looked at, the driving record based on information given by the driver. CD10 for example or speeding gives the option to revoke or show fit and proper by advanced driving course, we recognise 3 companies. The mandate is to allow Drivetech to check your DVLA license or DVLA direct link at a cost of £10,000.00	
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	Drivers will receive an email from Driveteck it is then up to the driver to respond, warnings then suspension action will follow. AD no problem with checking but has problems on giving access to financial details. DC replied there are no financial details requested by Driveteck. Reporting of Offences, DC, gave example of a previous case, this was a case where we hadn't been informed of the offence. DC gave further examples of offences to report. Practical wheelchair course, DC, explained in the old policy it was written that the course had to be renewed every three years under the statutory guidelines. DC has checked the new policy and this needs to continue and will put this in the newsletter. Operators, DC, Nationally the best practice guide says operators must have a policy for booking and dispatch staff, this must now be in place. Booking records kept for recognised time limits along with driver's licences Out of town operators and subcontracting to sister companies the operator who provides the vehicle must tell the customer and offer the choice of own Local Authority licensed vehicle. General discussion over the new plates. DC the 6 monthly test inspections are to be reinstated, the 700 + vehicles all have an MoT date which will form the basis of the new inspection dates at 6 months, the new calendar was explained, example of MoT then a test and how the adjusted test would fall within the calendar year. DC advised that we trying to arrange funding when the details were published within the North Yorkshire Combined Authority. DC mentioned that there had been enquiries about corporate wraps for the vehicles, we will investigate this DC mentioned that the new policy was now online along with the new application forms, renewal forms are still sent out as these are by invitation to renew or email the service to request. AM has asked that a reporting form was available. DC replied we would work with IT department to see if online application AM suggested that clarification was needed for the type of complaint. DC said that the newsletter was available to download including back issues	
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3.	Enforcement update	
3.1	RHH, Issued a handout the contents were discussed at the meeting. DC assured the trade City of York Council will still act on certain incidents. DN, asked how many complaints about overcharging / and drivers ought to be able to take the short way not the long way round. DC mentioned that files existed in Leeds regarding overcharging, no meter being used and over ranking. DS, gave example of a journey in a saloon one night then an MPV using a different tariff for the same journey. RHH we are receiving a lot of low-level petty complaints which could be resolved by drivers and not being in conflict with each other. DC pointed out that the PH trade was using internet-based applications to support their business and HCD's need to stop the petty complaints. DS asked what ranks were involved DC asked the trade to go back to members and explain to them about not arguing amongst selves. AS mentioned, the misuse of parking laybys DC will liaise with British Transport Police. DS, spoke with representative of CMAC and mentioned aspects of not being able to access ranks. DC explained CYC position over the private rank at the station DA asked if the containers could be moved, General discussion followed regarding the station works / contractors. AM commented on the issues on Duncan Place with PHV's and public parking on the ranks AS replied, he had the number for parking services for drivers to call.	
4.	Taxi ranks (marking and locations)	
4.1	AM asked about combined operations DC replied that there was an agreement between the Road Traffic Policing Unit that they would work with us unless called away which they must respond to.	
5.	Enforcement at taxi rank during Christmas markets	
5.1	DC officers will be patrolling during Christmas markets	
6.	Subcontracting	
6.1	NR (remote question) has asked how the bookings going to other operators when booked local DS, people have booked local, but Uber turns up	

	DC CYC don't specify what operator to work for drivers can work for two or more if they like, other councils now say both operators' door decals must be on the car, general discussion of door decals.	
7.	Veezu	
7.1	NR (remote question) asked what VEEZU meant. AS said he had received an email saying Drive had been bought out by Veezu DC Unable to comment at the moment	
8.	What is being done to promote Hackney Carriage in York.	
8.1	CYC are contributing to the taxi trade by submitting the location of all the taxi ranks to be included in the new maps, there is a media campaign for the future DS, spoke about the size of signage on the taxi ranks AM, asked if it could be advertised where the nearest rank is during closures. DC replied wraps are used on crowd barriers at a cost of £100 or so if associations would like to fund them, they can contact York Bid, York Bid do a lot of good for the trade. Looking at further funding for the taxi marshals, again speak to York Bid if the trade would like to assist in the sponsorship General discussion of advertising at York University for Streamline and Uber.	
9.	AOB (Additional Questions)	
9.1	DA, is it legal for Taxi butlers for PHV, 2 nd thing, executive decisions by executive meetings, please don't shut down roads as this adds 33/ £4 on a journey to the public. DC replied highways go to public consultation / reports to members for their approval, HCPHS would be consulted for comment.	
9.2	JW, could we use advertising that is see through as the rear windows that you see on buses. DC we will look at that as part of the corporate wrap	
	Next meeting date: TBC	