

## MINUTES OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2011

ITEM		ACTION
	<p>In attendance: - <u>Leeds City Council</u> Councillor Armitage – Chair of Licensing Committee Des Broster – Section Head Martino DePlacido – Operations Manager Alison Calvert – Temporary Management Support Officer (Secretary)</p> <p><u>Hackney Carriage Associations:</u> Michael Utting – Telecabs/Streamline – LTOA. Andy Howard – Telecabs/Streamline – LTOA Khaliq Ahmed – City Cabs - LTOA Mohammed Sabar – City Cabs – LAPTA Quadir Hussain – Eurocabs – LITDA Mr Zulifar Din – Eurocabs - LITDA Mr Raouf – Eurocabs - LITDA</p>	
1.0	<p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Introductions</u></b></p> <p>DPB thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of Councilor Armitage..</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of events.</p>	
3.0	<p><b><u>Action points from the last meeting</u></b></p> <p>A Metro – this matter had resolves itself as Gatecrasher are no longer licenced. DPB agreed that the Section would monitor this. A metro cars were ranking up. MD to do a test purchase at this location.</p> <p>Corporate Wrap policy – DPB advised that this policy came into effect in 2004. He appreciated that over the last 7 years the number of vehicles to which the poicy mainly applied had reduced and therefore the opportunity for corporate wrap advertising income had reduced. DPB advised that he was prepared to make an exception to the policy on appropriate occasions. DPB had taken legal advice that this could</p>	MD

be done within his delegated powers without the need for a delegated Decision Notice. Each application was being viewed on a case by case basis.

The Trade asked about side wraps and DPB advised that this could be possible but also that Private Hire vehicles in Bradford were allowed side wraps. DPB advised that there needs to be a distinction between Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. This matter was not pursued by the Trade.

Meter Calibration - DPB asked MD and it was confirmed that the cost of meter calibration was £10. The trade thought that this was expensive and DPB agreed to look at the cost of meter calibration but indicated the tight financial constraints he was operating under.

Traffic Management System for the Train Station - DPB advised that he had prepared a press release was awaiting an update on the market testing exercise.

The Hackney Carriage trade were considering some legal action over this issue and asked for a copy of the contracts. They may take legal action as the lack of the new system was allegedly costing them thousands of pounds.

DPB

DPB agreed to contact John Mulcahy to request this and also to ask Gordon Robertson for an update.

### **Agenda items**

4.0

### **Staffing Issues**

DPB advised that he had a meeting with John Mulcahy on Friday 25 February 2011 to discuss the section staffing levels.

DPB advised that Howard Stobbs the Licensing Supervisor was leaving on 31 March 2011 through the early leavers initiative. The Hackney Carriage Trade asked DPB to give him their best wishes and comment on what a "nice gentleman" he was. DPB advised another member of staff would be acting up until his position was recruited to. DPB advised that it was Council policy that all jobs went through the re-deployee Boards first, before being internally advertised. DPB advised that HS duties were being given to other members of staff until the recruitment campaign is completed.

The Trade enquired about Martyn Johnson who is absent from work at the moment.

Knowledge test – The Trade were concerned about the wait for applicants to sit the Local Knowledge test. DPB advised that meetings had been arranged a few times and had had to be cancelled. DPB advised that this was a specialised area and he might have to think of different solutions to get this testing updated.

5.0

### **Licensing - update**

DPB advise that the number of new applicants was stabilising but not increasing.

Plate transfers – DPB advised the Trade of the process. DPB advised that it was a private transaction between the existing Proprietor and the new Proprietor and any interested parties. DPB advised that the meeting at the Section was a transaction between the Council and the interested parties alone and not intermediaries.

KC

It was suggested by the Trade that this might be an article for future newsletter i.e. to explain the process to Proprietors.

DPB also suggested that the JTC might wish to share information about Proprietors who may wish to leave the Trade and transfer their interest in a licensed vehicle.

The Trade advised that there had been a situation when a Proprietor had sold a vehicle and the data head with it and the vehicle had therefore moved to another company. DPB suggested that on transfer of a Plate that a letter be obtained from the existing Proprietors Association/company to advise that they were happy for the vehicle to be transferred.

DPB

The trade asked about the costs involved in the prosecution of Plate 408. DPB advised that a Freedom of Information request was needed before this information could be provided.

## 6.0

### **Operations – Update**

MD advised that the re-deployees who were helping out the Enforcement Team had now left. One member of staff had been “called up” to undertake military service.

MD advised that in 2010 the total number of prosecutions were 118 of which 54 were plying for hire.

MD advised that the Section had carried out a number of test cases without using covert police officers but just based on CCTV evidence. Some cases had to be dropped due to lack of evidence.

The Trade wanted to see more enforcement activity in the hot spot areas i.e. McDonalds on Boar Lane & outside Tiger Tiger. Boar Lane was being blocked by cars.

MD advised that the Section was working with LeedsWatch to use their CCTV cameras in hot spots.

The Trade advised that plying for hire was a problem on every night of the week, not just on those days that the Enforcement Team worked.

DPB advised that he had to consider the health and safety of Council Officers and sometimes Officers had to withdraw.

Mike Utting advised that the Trade were aware it was difficult, and it was going to continue to be difficult with the present number of

Enforcement Officers (3).

Mike Utting advised that the JTC were going to discuss plying for hire policy and our consultation material at their next meeting and their response would be sent to us.

**7.0 Vehicle Inspections – Update**

MD gave an update on the inspection figures. The figures were not split between Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, but overall there appeared to have been an improvement in standards.

DPB agreed to look into splitting the figures between Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. Mike Utting advised that the Trade would like to see a split to see how the Hackney Carriage was doing as a whole compared to Private Hire vehicle. These figure would give the JTC some information in the hope of improving the fleet.

**MD**

MD gave an update on the number of tyre prosecutions and the Trade agreed that it would be a good idea if an item on tyre law was included in the next newsletter.

**KC**

**8.0 Tariff Incease**

A revised increase had been given to DPB. DPB advised that he was to refer this to finance next week and would report back.

**9.0 Schedule of Taxi & Private Hire Licensing policy review**

DPB advised the Trade to get any comments they might have to the Section.

**10.0 Hackney Carriage Forum Constitution**

DPB advised that this item was with John Mulcahy.

**JM**

**11.0 Any Other Business**

DPB asked the Trade if there were any questions that they would like to ask Councillor Armitage.

Update on NVQ/BTEC – DPB advoisd that this item was to go to the next Committee meeting on 15 March 2011. The Trade asked when papers would be available for the public. DPB advised that he though they would be available about 10 days before hand.

Councillor Armitage advised that she was meeting with the Police to discuss hot spots in town. DPB asked if they would like Councillor Armitage and a Police Officer to attend the next Hackney Carriage forum. The Trade advised that they thought that this was a good idea.

**DPB**

The size of the numbering on door stickers was discussed and they thought that they were too small.

The Trade asked about a 3 year licence – DPB advised that it was the licensing computer systems that was preventing this. DPB gave the Trade an update on the procurement of the new system and hoped it would be in place later this year. He advised that strict criteria would apply to the grant of a 3 year licence and Councilor Armitage was in agreement.

The Trade were satisfied that the presence of Councilor Armitage satisfied their request for Q & A session for the whole Hackney trade.