



CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of meeting held at 11.00 on Wednesday 6 August 2014
Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG

Members of the Liaison Group (Councillors)

Cllr Carl Bennett, Portfolio Leader for the Environment (Group Chair)*

Cllr Maureen Freeman, Vice Chair of Cannock Chase Council, (Group Vice Chair)*

Members of the Liaison Group (Officers)

Steve Shilcock CCDC*

David Prosser-Davies CCDC*

Sean O'Meara CCDC*

Jason Salter CCDC*

Elected representatives of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Trade

Steven Holroyd *

Terrance Hurley*

Samantha Payne*

Victor Simonczyk*

Steven Toy*

Kendal Tranter*

Martin Hammond**

Harry Griffiths**

Patricia Taylor**

(*) Present (**) Apology

Introductions & welcome

At the request of Cllr Bennett, everyone present introduced themselves. Cllr Bennett stated that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Liaison Group (The Group) represented a new start in the Council's relationship with the Trade. He felt that the formation of this Committee was the best way for both parties to communicate. Both sides recognised that a joint approach was the way forward to ensuring an excellent constructive dialogue.

Cllr Bennett confirmed that the Liaison Group will have a clear remit and it must not in any way cut across the remit of the Council's Licensing & Public Protection Committee (L&PPC). This Group could not deal with matters which affected the L&PPC.

Cllr Bennett also said that the Group would be where all parties could be open with one another, with no point scoring, and discussion round the table.

S Toy agreed and illustrated forthcoming possible changes proposed by the Law Commission.

Cllr Bennett acknowledged the Government agenda on taxis and said that discussing matters such as this would be appropriate for this Group. However, the forthcoming General Election in May 2015 could curtail aspects of Government legislation

Terms of Reference

S Shilvock was asked to take the Group through the draft T'soR. He did so and no issues or queries were raised in respect of the proposed T'soR.

Cllr Bennett then went through the T'soR in greater detail and asked at every stage whether all present were happy with the proposed T'soR.

It was unanimously agreed that:

- The Terms of Reference as tabled be agreed
- All meetings of the Group will be at 11.00am on Wednesdays.
- The proposed future meeting dates given on the Agenda for the meeting were agreeable.

These dates are:

Wednesday 5 November 2014;
Wednesday 4 February 2015; and,
Wednesday 6 May 2015.

Proposed Changes for applications to the Disclosure & Barring Service.

D Prosser-Davies advised the Group that the Council had been approached by a number of companies about possible changes to the DBS system. He said that for an additional fee, it was possible to make application electronically and have the Disclosure returned within days rather than weeks. 50% returned within 2 days and 80% within 5 days.

D Prosser-Davies asked the Group whether they thought there might be any merit in the proposals and whether they wished the Council to look into the matter further. He said that there seemed to be a particular benefit for new applicants.

S Payne asked about the additional cost and D Prosser-Davies said the additional cost would probably work out about £10-15. It might also include taking paperwork to the Post Office.

S Toy questioned whether it would necessarily be appropriate for existing drivers as the approximately 6 weeks notice that existing drivers are given of their licence renewal is sufficient to complete the process as it already exists. It was considered that existing drivers should be given a choice.

It was unanimously agreed that the Council pursue the matter further for both new and existing drivers and report back to Group at the November meeting. Any proposals would be sent out with the agenda before that meeting took place.

Application Timescales

D Prosser-Davies said that the Licensing Unit were having some occasional difficulty because licence holders were making late applications. He said that the Council were looking at some proposals to encourage early applications.

K Tranter, V Simonczyk and others thought that having to make payment at the time of application could be one reason why applications were being made late.

The Group agreed that payment of the fee upon collection might be a good idea.

It was agreed that a new system of payment on collection would be trailed in October 2014 and then reported back to the Group at the November meeting.

V Simonczyk asked if it was possible to hand in applications at the Rugeley Office. D Prosser-Davies said he would make enquiries.

S Payne commented that sending renewals etc. by email was a good idea. S O'Meara said that this was now being done wherever possible. Cllr Bennett said that licence holders will still be offered a choice.

The meeting finished at 12.05.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 5 November 2014 at 11.00am in the Western Springs Room, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.