



## CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at 12.00pm on Thursday 19 January 2017  
Datteln Room, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffs, 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 Shilvock - CCDC\*\*

David Prosser-Davies - CCDC\*

Sean O'Meara - CCDC\*

Jason Salter - CCDC\*

#### **Representatives of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Trade**

Terrance Hurley\*

Steven Toy\*

Kendal Tranter\*\*

Martin Hammond\*\*

Steven Holroyd\*\*

Omar Ali (Observer)\*\*

Samantha Payne\*\*\*

Victor Simonczyk\*

Patricia Taylor\*

Jason Shorrocks\*\*\*

George Simonczyk\*\*\*

Harry Griffiths\*\*

(\* Present (\*\* Apology (\*\*\*) Not present no apology.

#### **Welcome & apologies**

Cllr Bennett welcomed everybody to the meeting and apologies were accepted.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting**

The notes of meeting on Wednesday 27 July 2016, were previously circulated and agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

#### **Matters arising**

Cllr Bennett noted that there were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

### **HCPHLG membership and trade delegation mandate.**

It was reported by the taxi trade representatives that Mr Toy had been elected as leader of their group. The Local Authority noted their decision.

Mr Toy raised some concern that the attendance of the trade representatives at the HCPHLG meetings seems to have fallen at recent meeting. Mr Toy believes that this could be because, in his experience, the relationship the trade currently enjoy with this Council is possibly the best in the Country.

### **Review of licence fees.**

Mr Prosser-Davies reported early indications that our HC/PH licence fees were broadly correct. This was noted by all.

### **Subcontracting and cross border hiring.**

Mr Toy informed the group that Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC) no longer require applicant PH drivers to pass a topographical knowledge test. As a result there has been a significant increase in the number of applications for PH driving licences. Mr Toy believes that the WMBC appear to be acting in their own interests and not the interests of the trade or the travelling public. WMBC are under pressure from the local PH Association to reconsider their actions and re-introduce what they consider to be appropriate licensing standards.

Mr Toy is concerned that cross border hiring may result from the WMBC decision and this may have repercussions for CCDC in respect of enforcement of WMBC vehicles which might lawfully find their way to the CCDC area but be beyond our jurisdiction.

Mr Toy said he was part of a group of licence holders who have formed a larger West Midland (WM) wide focus group who had invited WMBC to a round table discussion. Currently WMBC are not engaging with them as well as they might.

Mr Toy informed the group that he is attending a meeting of the larger WM group later today and Cllr Bennett asked him to report any relevant information back to the CCDC HCPHLG. Mr Toy agreed.

### **Licensed vehicle inspections.**

Mr Toy said that he was fully supportive of regular checks being made on licensed vehicles and although he was aware that the Council could formally require vehicles to be presented to the Council Depot, the trade would prefer vehicle inspections to be made by arrangement and agreement. This was agreed.

### **Feedback from CSE training and future training provision.**

Mr Toy said that that following the recent Safeguarding training he received from the Council in December 2016, he now realised the clear benefit that such training could provide. He said that the training was very successful and made him aware of when and where it might be necessary for licensed drivers to intervene.

### **DVLA licence checks.**

Mr Toy asked for clarification on the benefit obtained by the Licensing Unit (LU) from the use of an external company to provide DVLA checks. His Particular concern is the cost associated with this method.

Mr Prosser-Davis advised the group that we had been using Intelligent Data Systems (IDS) for the past 3 years. The Council benefits both from the ability to check a driver's DVLA in good time ahead of renewals and instantaneously if it is necessary to do so. The IDS system does not rely on the availability and/or co-operation of drivers which, at times, is difficult to obtain. The system has proved its value in alerting the Council to undeclared points/endorsements.

It was also noted that although there is a cost to the IDS service, it was still cheaper than paying a Licensing Support Clerk to physically obtain a DVLA check code from each driver and check 300+ individual drivers through the DVLA route. The DVLA check code is only valid for 21 days and can only be used once.

The link to the IDS website is: <http://www.intelligentdatasystems.co.uk>

### **Privacy glass.**

Mr Toy asked about the Council's current policy as there appears to be some subjectivity in the assessment.

Mr O'Meara responded by saying that the currently policy engages the opinion of the Proprietor as well as licensing officers and has always worked without recourse to the council's regulatory committee. The policy has not changed in recent years and as it provides the Proprietor with a number of different options, it is still considered to be fit for purpose.

### **Town centre issues.**

Mrs Taylor said that there was still a problem with taxis parking in disabled bays outside Bar Sport in Cannock. It was noted that although the situation seems to have improved, there is still an issue which both sides are working to resolve.

### **Vehicles new to licensing.**

This item was placed on the agenda by Mr Hammond who offered his apologies for the meeting. Mr Toy said that he had spoken to Mr Hammond and understood from him that he wanted to extend the age at which a new vehicle would be licensed by the Council. Current Council policy states that vehicles which are new to licensing must be less than 3 and a half years old. Mr Hammond wishes to extend this period to 4 years. Mr Toy said that this proposal was not generally supported by the trade.

### **Hackney Carriage scale of fares- Christmas and New Year tariff.**

This was another agenda item from Mr Hammond. Mr Toy once again said that he had spoken to Mr Hammond on the matter but the trade seems to be split as to whether to consider a change to the Fare Tariff.

Mr Toy said that he would consult further with the trade and advised the group that the current meters will, in any case, need to be recalibrated in April 2017. In light of this, Mr Toy was asked to inform the LU as soon as possible of any proposed change.

### **Date of next meeting.**

12.00 Midday on Wednesday 29 March 2017.

There will be a pre-meeting of the trade at 11.00am on the same day.