



**CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 11.00pm on Wednesday 29 March 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 of 19 January 2017 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.

### **Feedback from Mr Toy following a meeting in Birmingham and further developments regarding the issues of cross-border hiring and subcontracting nationally.**

Mr Toy provided an update of his meeting with licensed drivers in the West Mids. He was concerned that conflict had arisen amongst the participants within the group which was having an effect on their way forward. The Chair expressed his concern at the development as he was sure that this could have enhanced the standing of licensed drivers within the public arena. Following discussion, both parties agreed to keep working on the issue and Cllr Bennett and officers indicated that they would support where possible. Mr Toy thanked Cllr Bennett and the officers for their support.

### **Confirmation of 2017/18 licence fees.**

Mr Prosser-Davies confirmed that as previously reported, there is to be no increase in licence fees for the year 2017/18. The trade welcomed the news and Mr Toy stated that there would be no request from the trade for an increase in taxi fares for two reasons. Firstly, there are to be no increases in licence fees and secondly, the trade are not in agreement as to whether an increase in fares is desirable.

### **Licensing Unit customer surveys.**

Mr Prosser-Davies advised the group that the Licensing Unit has started to ask for customer feedback on our vehicle renewal process and are considering different ways of obtaining that feedback. One suggestion was to provide a link to the Council survey on the local taxi Association's Facebook page. This was agreed in principle however, Mr Toy made the group aware that the Facebook page was open to everybody, not just trade members. Mr Prosser-Davies agreed to provide Mr Toy with the necessary link.

### **New Immigration requirements and licence renewals.**

Mr O'Meara confirmed that the Council had written to all drivers in December 2016 so as to outline the new immigration check requirements for the renewal of hackney carriage/private hire driver licences. So far no issues have arisen.

### **Equalities Act 2010 requirements and driver medical exemptions.**

Mr O'Meara advised the group that Government had recently issued guidance through the DfT on the new requirements for purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's) and those who drive them. He explained that as a consequence, the Council now needs to draw up a list of WAV's and drivers and will write to the identified proprietors in due course.

Drivers are now expected to carry assistance dogs and offer help to wheelchair bound passengers but it was noted that a medical exemption from that requirement has been available for some years through the Council's taxi licence policy. This will continue to be the case.

Mr Griffiths asked if the 5 year restriction for WAV's new to licensing could be extended to 10 years from 5 years and that 2 spaces might be made available for WAV's by the Bowling Green in Cannock. Mr Griffiths agreed to discuss the matter with other trade delegates and bring a formal request to the next meeting if it was thought appropriate to do so.

### **CSE/ Safeguarding training update.**

Mr O'Meara advised that all but a very few drivers had now been trained in Safeguarding and the prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation. This had been very effective with some positive responses from the trade.

### **Mobile phones.**

Mr O'Meara advised that the statutory penalty for mobile phone use whilst driving had been increased by Government. Although the Council's penalty matrix will not change, Mr O'Meara asked that the trade delegates help send the message that using mobile phones whilst driving were dangerous.

Mr Toy advised that very many licensed drivers use hands-free "Bluetooth" to answer their mobile phones and that many drivers now used a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) datahead to receive their jobs. He said he believes that these are "hands-free" in accordance with the legislation. Officers advised caution in their use.

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

11.00 on Wednesday 7 June 2017.

There will be a pre-meeting of the trade at 10.00am on the same day.