



CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at 11.00am on Wednesday 9 March 2016
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*

Elected representative 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*

(* 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 minutes of meeting on Wednesday 11 November 2015, were previously circulated and agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

Matters arising

Mrs Taylor advised the group that the issue of plying for hire in the disabled parking bays outside Bar Sport had once again become an issue.

Mr O'Meara advised that a small number of repeat offenders had been identified and were being spoken to. The Licensing Unit has also spoken to Bar Sport and the Staffordshire Police Special Constabulary about the issue.

Mr Toy also mentioned that the item about perceived barriers to entering the trade may also become an issue for existing drivers if the council's training requirement became too onerous.

Revised taxi policy

Mr Prosser-Davies advised the group that it was originally intended to take the revised policy to Full Council in April 2016 but as the responses received were quite detailed, it will actually be sent to Full Council in July 2016.

Mr Toy asked how the policy would progress through the council structure and was advised that the consultation responses had already been reported to the Licensing & Public Protection Committee. The next stage would be to Full Council as its adoption was not a Cabinet responsibility.

HC/PH driver training

Mr Prosser-Davies said that the Council are reviewing their training requirements for new and existing drivers. This follows the trade's response to the proposed refresher training for existing drivers and because the funding for BTEC courses no longer seem to be available.

With respect to item 7 on the agenda (Feed back on Staffordshire's approach to safeguarding and child sexual exploitation training for taxi drivers), Mr Prosser-Davies also informed the group that a meeting had taken place recently which involved all of the Staffordshire authorities and the county council's safeguarding and school transport departments. The meeting was intended to help prevent duplication of training by different authorities. Mr Prosser-Davies also said that a consensus had been reached with respect to the training requirements around safeguarding & child sexual exploitation but issues were still to be resolved were around funding and delivery.

Mr Toy said that he believed that the Police are delivering some training within the West Mids area. Mr Prosser-Davies said there were a number of options being considered but these needed to be sustainable.

The question of existing driver refresher training being mandatory was raised and it was confirmed that after further consideration, the training was not mandatory.

Re-election of trade representatives.

Mr O'Meara advised the group that there were currently 10 people who had asked for their names to be put forward. Cllr Bennett said that 9 trade reps was a good number but as it was rare for all 9 members to attend at one time, a system of substitutes could be used. The trade reps agreed to consider this further.

Campaign to tackle illegal working in taxi and private hire vehicle sector.

Mr O'Meara advised the group that the Home Office were about to launch Operation Magnify. This was intended to raise the profile within the trade about drivers who were working within the UK illegally.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed in June 2016.