

PRESTON TAXI TRADES LIAISON MEETING 12 June 2019

Present:

Daren Ireland – RMT North West
Riaz Qadeer – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Mohammed Safdar - RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Dave Lowe - Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council
Paul Highton – Business Apprentice, Preston City Council

Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the liaison meeting held on 6 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Taxi Ranks

DL reported that the Council would be going out to consultation with local businesses on the proposed taxi ranks on Chapel Street and Theatre Street and the amendment to the Market Street rank from a day time rank to a 24 hour rank on 25 June 2019 and that an advert would also be published in the Lancashire Post on 5 July 2019. Deadline for representations is 26 July 2019.

Parking Enforcement

DL confirmed that LCC had invited Senior Licensing Technicians to accompany their parking enforcement officers on two dates set in June 2019 but no officers were available. He confirmed that every effort would be made to accompany them in similar operations from July 2019.

In April and May 2019 LCC issued 27 fixed penalty notices to owners of vehicles parked on city centre taxi ranks during weekend evening enforcement operations.

Hate Crime Meeting – 30 April 2019

RQ attended the above meeting and reported that there had been no improvement to the throwing of stones at licenced vehicles since it was reported at the inaugural meeting of Private Hire Operators and driver representatives. DL advised that all offences and incidents need to be reported to the Police.

Preston Taxi Policy – Proposed Amendments

DL reported that the proposals to replace the current medical assessment form and to require applicants to seek its completion by the medical practice where applicants are registered has been withdrawn. The Council received a number of objections and during investigations it was found that not every medical practice offered this service.

DI requested that the current list of Hackney Carriage stands be updated in the policy. DL reported this back to MT for him to consider.

Clean Air

DL reported that the Council had signed the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Which means it is committed to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the Local Planning Authority and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030.

DI pointed out that the trade would not support a policy of revoking or not renewing vehicle licence under any clean air measures made by Preston City Council and asked if there would be any financial support in helping vehicle proprietors to acquire cleaner vehicles.

Enforcement – General

RQ raised concerns about the bollard outside Waterstones and asked if this could be removed. DL advised that this as this was on the public highway such requests should be made to the Highway Authority at LCC.

Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections

DL reported that between March 2019 and May 2019 the Council inspected:-

- 19 hackney carriages – 10 stop notices and 8 vehicle defect notices.
- 17 private hire vehicles – 6 stop notices and 11 vehicle defect notices.

Enforcement – Penalty Points

DL reported that between March 2019 and May 2019 a total of 8 penalty point notices were issued in respect of:

- 1 hackney driver for breach of byelaws
- 1 hackney driver breach of policy
- 1 private hire driver for breach of condition
- 1 private hire vehicle proprietor breach of condition
- 4 private hire drivers not reporting motoring offences

Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee

At its April 2019 meeting a hackney carriage driver and a private hire driver were issued with written warnings. An application for a private hire driver's licence was allowed to continue.

At its May 2019 meeting a private hire driver was issued with a written warning. An application for a private hire driver's licence was allowed to continue and a private hire driver's licence was reviewed but it was determined that no further action be taken.

At its June 2019 meeting a private hire driver was issued with a written warning and another private hire driver licence applicant was allowed to continue.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 August 2019 in Room C at the Town Hall commencing at 2pm.