

# HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FORUM Meeting

Venue: City Hall UGP13

Agenda: 1 August 2019

Attendee	Representing
Cllr Ruth Pickersgill (RP)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Jonathan Martin (JM)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
James Roberts (JR)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Steve Crawshaw (SC)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Stephen Pick (SP)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Patrick Masih (PM)	<i>Chair – BBLTA</i>
Mohammed Islam (MI)	<i>HC Trade Representative</i>
Gary O'Neill (GON)	<i>PH Trade Representative</i>
Sarah Joyce (SJ)	<i>V Cars</i>
Clive Burdett (CB)	<i>Unite</i>
Eugenie Teasley (ET)	<i>Uber</i>

## 1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

- Apologies –
  - PC Patrick Quinton
  - Steve Lohia
  - Mahad Jama

## 2. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes were agreed as a true record.
- Previous Actions –
  - SP to look at Watershed area as this has not yet been actioned  
Still ongoing from previous meeting, to action. **ACTION A**
  - NC to organise meeting with Network Rail in regards to a limit on taxi permits  
Take forward under HC update.

- **RK to check that Trade Representatives were invited to today's meetings**  
\*AMENDMENT TO MINUTES RK should be RP.
- **PQ to put figures quoted into an article for newsletter**  
Article was submitted to newsletter.
- **RP to discuss with JM possibility of more frequently circulated newsletter**  
Running quarterly at present; will remain.
- **SP to chase up refreshing of the Queens Road rank and feedback**  
Has been chased and now complete.
- **NC to find out from colleagues in North Somerset as to who deals with Arrow Cars and Tenders**  
NC not present at meeting. To follow up.

### 3. Transport/Taxi Ranks Update

- SP – Baldwin Street is going through process looking for implementation in autumn. The rank outside RBS will need a Traffic Regulation Order which is in progress.
- Motion – implementation for a rank also in Autumn.
- BRI Hospital – SP had a meeting with Transport Manager from BRI. The hospital are looking at relocating disabled parking, pickup and drop-off, and creating more cycle stands. The entrance area is being redeveloped. Hospital are proposing to relocate bus stop with the layby outside the hospital due to complaints that bus stop is too far away. If this were to happen this would push rank approximately 50 metres further down the kerbside. JM noted the Equality Impact Assessment will pick-up on needs of disabled wheelchair users not having priority over cycles and buses. RP commented that disabled people are lobbying for a rank.
- Boots rank – a shelter has been installed and a wrap will be installed on the shelter to make it very visible. JM advised that once wrap is in place, enforcement will commence at Hippodrome. There will be a two week period of warning letters, then moving on to ticketing. PM met with Patsy Mellor and NC on 31 July 2019 regarding this and will update Nick once consulted with Trade. MI noted that South Gloucestershire cars are allowed to wait and pick-up on their apps, and the HC trade feel the council are clearing out the HC trade and allowing the space for PH cars from S Glos. It was pointed out that HCs can only wait where there is actually a rank and RP noted enforcement must give regard to law and council do not make the laws. HC trade frustrated as they feel they are being singled out. JM advised enforcement can only operate within constraints of the law. JM noted that Bristol have replied to the government proposals for changes to out of town working. **SP left the Forum.** RP requested we ask for someone to come and speak about enforcement aspect highlighted by JM **ACTION B.** JM also noted there is a Private Hire Operator policy being drafted and will go before the working group and then come to the next Forum.

- **ACTION C** Enforcement item to be put on next agenda

#### 4. Clean Air Proposals – Steve Crawshaw

- SC showed a presentation to the group. A copy of the presentation will be made available with the distribution of these notes.
- Context is the problem with air pollution. One of main sources of air pollution is traffic.
- Wider issues of ill health is due to pollutants. Diesel cars are responsible for 40-44% of emissions and just under 50% of all cars are diesel.
- SC pointed out the Clean Air Plan is just part of much wider plans including controls on traffic, tree planting, zones outside schools, but other areas such as construction.
- The Council has a legal duty to bring down pollutants in shortest possible time and lean Air Zone has been given as a tool to deal with this. Different Classes of zone (as per current consultation).
- SC ran through charging options;
  - Clean Air zone where private cars not charged, but non-compliant would be charged £9 per day including taxis and LGVs in place by 2029
  - Option 2 Diesel Car Ban Zone – wouldn't apply to taxis of any emission type - in place by 2028
- National Database of licensed vehicles will be used as per legislation.
- RP asked why we are consulting if Option 2 is quicker. SC clarified there isn't an option in consultation; the consultation is asking how the options would affect you.
- ET asked if they would implement both – SC said there are two different options however there is pressure to get this done in the quickest possible time so anything is possible.
- SC highlighted compliance dates on the presentation. Marlborough Street was highlighted as a difficult road in particular to implement in time.
- RP noted importance of the Forum getting this information out to taxi trade.
- ET asked why taxis are being excluded from the diesel car ban. SC clarified that driving a taxi is a business; this is an economically important factor in the city where this vehicle type needs access. Recognise impact on those vehicles. PM extended thanks to JM for bringing HC trade up to Euro 6 standard. Had this not been done trade would be in big trouble. PM asked if there is any funding available for upgrade from Euro 5, as other cities are getting funding from government. JM clarified he is unaware of any schemes. JM noted some authorities have allowed LPG conversions in vehicles, however this destroys the certificate of conformity and we require the certificate in Bristol. ET asked fs the exemption is regardless of where they're licensed or is it just Bristol? It will be all licensed vehicles.
- Consultation runs to 12 August. Targeting interview surveys in areas of high deprivation, also BME zones, and areas with low response rate on previous consultations. **SC left the Forum.**
- JM thanked PM for comments on our policy. Other LAs are now looking at our policies.

## **5. Taxi Cop Update**

- No update as PQ sends apologies.

## **6. Policy Update**

- Private Hire Operator policy – aim to bring to next forum. Should be ready for Working Group in September. Rewrite of PHO policy, looking at significant change in the current fit and proper person test. After Working Group, policy will be available for scrutiny.
- Mandatory Training – hopefully September for procurement. All drivers will undertake going forward. Will be on a cycle for new drivers and existing drivers. CB wanted to clarify if childcare would be provided for driver's children, JM clarified it will not and the course will form part of the working day.
- Working Group Report from Central Government – Licensing want to introduce DBS checking service for all drivers. Not as straight forward, need to clarify what we do when we find a change in status. Will be going to the Working Group. MI wanted to clarify cost of 6 monthly DBS checks, JM and RP clarified its £13 a year update service, no further financial burden. PM agreed with potential for DBS update service and clarified Licensing should be able to check whenever.

## **7. Issues from Hackney Carriage Trade**

- PM – card payment machines. Can we put this into policy for HC? JM – first call we have had for this as it has always been discretionary. This would mean a change in policy so would need support from the trade. CB highlighted transaction fees when taking card payments; this would need to be considered. CB also highlighted charges cannot be levied onto the customer. Suggestion that this goes to the trade to establish if there is support, and if there is, it can be considered.
- HC Fares increase – needs to be looked at for January 2020. Need to decide on going forward. JM – to fulfil commitment we will go forward on fare increase in respect of RPI cost of living increase. In absence of any proposal from trade we will move forward on RPI. PM will obtain feedback from trade. MI highlighted after trade meeting on 1 August trade will contact JM to discuss how to calculate increase.

## **8. Issues from Private Hire Trade**

- ET – if there are any hotspot areas where Uber are parking illegally, or unlawful activity, we will do what we can to mitigate that. Uber liaise with Patrick Quinton. Recently ran a project with Patrick around Temple Meads. PM will forward details of problem areas to ET. MI highlighted issues around Stokes Croft also.

- GON – the idea of pickup to and from in own area – will this include chauffeurs? JM advised one of the exemptions considered from this requirement would be this. RP clarified we have to wait and see what the actual government proposal covers.
- GON – city centre bus lanes – why can't PH use them? JM concluded bus lane tickets are issued for vehicles other than buses. JM to try and obtain numbers of PHVs ticketed in bus lanes

#### **ACTION D**

## **9. AOB**

- None.

## **10. Actions for next meeting:**

Action Point	Matters arising	By Whom	Completed?
A	SP to look at Watershed area as this has not yet been actioned	SP	
B	Request an officer from Parking Enforcement to attend Forum in respect of enforcement action at Boots rank	JM	
C	Include Enforcement item on next Agenda	JM	
D	JM to try and obtain stats of PHV's ticketed in bus lanes	JM	

**Next meeting: Please note 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 cancelled. Next meeting is 21 November 2019.**