

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FORUM MEETING

Venue:

Agenda: 26 February 2025

Attendees and who they represent:

Councillor Sarah Classick (**SC**) (Chair) representing Bristol City Council
Jonathan Martin (**JM**) representing Bristol City Council
Dakota Delahunty (**DD**) representing Bristol City Council
Karen Daniels (**KD**) representing Bristol City Council
Paul Baker (**PB**) representing Bristol City Council
Patrick Quinton (**PQ**) representing Avon & Somerset Police
Mahad Jama (**MJ**) representing Magans
Gary O'Neill (**GO**) Private Hire Driver
Christine Twelvetree (**CT**) representing Veezu
Mike Bullock (**MB**) representing Bristol Executive Cars
Mike Bullock (**MB**) representing Bristol Executive Cars
Steve Lohia (**SL**) representing BDriven
Mohammad Ismail (**MI**) BBLTA Chair

Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

Apologies – None

Agree minutes from last meeting

Minutes from July 2024

Actions:

Notifications to operators about revocations

JM had received legal advice, and would be able to provide an update in the next few months

Licensing Team Update (JM)

JM provided an update;

The trade had requested a fare increase shortly before Christmas. It's due to go to committee for approval at the end of March, if approved it will go out for a statutory consultation. If no comments are received it will have immediate effect.

Following some requests from Councillors the Knowledge Test is being reviewed to make it more relevant to 2025, in particular to take into account of the majority of drivers using navigation devices.

There have been some complaints around behaviour when overtaking from Bristol Cycling groups. We are working with Patrick to produce an educational video to show what the law requires in regards to the passing of cyclists.

In terms of the licensing service we have a full complement of staff. There is no taxi backlog. The current processing times are;

Driver renewals 11.9 days

Vehicle renewals 12.3 days

Vehicle transfers 7.5 days

Renewal processing times appear to take longer due to late applications, and late submissions of documents, as well as quality of the documents being provided. Once all documents are received we are processing quickly.

Trade representatives asked how the processing times were calculated. JM advised this was the average processing times but could appear to be longer when incomplete applications are submitted. One of the reps advised they'd had issues where documents were requested which had already been provided.

Taxicop update (PQ)

PQ provided an update:

Over the last two months he'd been focusing on intelligence work and dealing with unlicensed drivers.

There had been changes to the speed limit at St John's Lane and a number of drivers had received endorsements as a result. There had also been an increase in cyclists using dash cams which had resulted in more drivers attending driving awareness courses in relation to dangerous overtaking.

Trade representatives asked about what action had been taken when cyclists go through red lights.

PQ advised that if officers witness it, they would take action where possible.

Transport update (KD)

Steve Pick has a new role within Project Delivery. Paul Baker has taken over as the Public Transport Manager.

The Transport team had met with PQ and MI in relation to ranks.

Two ranks had been updated with new signage, to ensure that they're clear and visible for drivers and passengers

Taxi reps raised concerns about the condition of Victoria Street rank near Council offices. PB advised it would be addressed as part of the upcoming redevelopment.

Queen Street and the Triangle (TS)

TS runs through a presentation on the upcoming changes. This is detailed in full within the document which has been circulated to the trade.

Highlights include;

Closure of Park Street to through traffic via a bus lane at the top along with a bus gate, which Taxis and Private Hire will be able to use.

There will be new rank on Triangle South.

The parking on Park Street will all be on one side of the road to reduce speed of cyclists.

The business case will go to approval between March and May. There will then be a statutory consultation on the restrictions set out in the scheme. January is the target for scheme. It's anticipated it will take 18 months to two years to complete.

Issues from BBLTA and issues from Private Hire

MI advised he'd had frequent contact with JM and DD, and there is an ongoing weekly surgery. He also requested that this segment of the Forum could be renamed to "Comments from BBLTA and Private Hire", as quite often items raised will be positive as well as negative.

GO raised that North Somerset had restricted the use of bus lanes on the route to the airport. JM advised that it was not something BCC could comment on, but North Somerset currently have a public consultation which drivers could comment on.

Trade representatives asked why vehicle licences can't be issued if a driver is referred to PSP. JM and DD advised that it would depend on why the driver had been referred and would be assessed on a case by case basis.

AOB and Date of next meeting

9 April 2025

Action Point	Matters arising	By Whom	Completed?
1	Legal advice regarding notifying operators of revocations – speak to other Local Authorities regarding providing information on revocations.	JM	Ongoing
2	Provide policy information to Forum	DD	Ongoing
3			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Next meeting: 9 April - Virtual