

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FORUM MEETING

Venue: City Hall

Agenda: 24 April 2024

Attendees and who they represent:

Councillor Fi Hance (**FH**) (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
Emily Peka (**EP**) representing Bristol City Council
Patrick Quinton (**PQ**) representing Avon & Somerset Police
Steve Lohia (**SL**) representing BDriven
Christie Twelvetree (**CT**) representing Veezu
Gary O'neill (**GO**) Private Hire Driver
Mike Bullock (**MB**) representing Bristol Executive Cars
Mark Jewell (**MJ**) representing Home James
Mohammad Islam (**MI**) BBLTA Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

Apologies

2. Agree minutes from last meeting

Minutes from January 2024

Actions:

3. Licensing Team Update (JM)

JM provided an update on processing times. Processing times has been higher over the last few months than usual due to an extended period of staff turnover and difficulties with recruitment.

The vacancies have been filled, with 12 permanent officers responsible for all aspects of licensing for the first time in nearly four years. They're currently being trained, and their work checked by SLO's, until they're ready to be signed off.

JM updated on current processing times, as of 19 April they are as follows;

Vehicle renewals 13.8 working days
Vehicle transfers 14.8 working days
Vehicle grants 21.5 working days
Drivers renewals 16.8 working days

Trade representatives raised that they were unhappy with the timescales over the last month, and that applicants weren't told straight away when there is an issue with an application.

JM advised applications are triaged the day after they're received, and the applicant is contacted when there are issues. There are still issues where applicants are not providing the required documents on application

MI requested that there could be an additional taxi surgery via Teams.

4. Transport Updates (KD)

KD advised that the best way to contact the transport team regarding maintenance issues is via the [FixMyStreet website](#)

The temporary traffic regulation order for St Augustine's is currently being processed.

5. City Centre Development Plan (EP)

EP ran through a presentation on the City Centre Development Plan, highlights include;

- The pedestrianisation of the Horsefair and Penn street
- Formal consultation in summer about Union street
- Four ranks proposed to be removed from City Centre, with four proposals for new rank locations

Trade reps raised concerns that taxis/PHV aren't being included as public transport provision

PQ queried how big the spaces on ranks would be

EP advised there are currently 22 spaces and the intention is to retain the same amount but would confirm the size of each space.

6. TaxiCop Update (PQ)

PQ provided the following updates;

- Ranks Ongoing issues with PHV and delivery mopeds parking on ranks. Have been issuing tickets to try and prevent it happening. There has been enforcement in the Old City which has exacerbated the issue. PQ has concerns about unlicensed vehicles, a lot of ranks allow PHV to drop off. Trade representatives asked about PHV dropping off at ranks. PQ clarified it depends on whether the rank is designated by byelaw or TRO.
- There has been a significant increase in vehicles licensed by Wolverhampton. This is legal if the driver, vehicle, and operator are licensed by same local authority. A booking can be made through an operator that is not licensed by Bristol. They do not have to return to their local authority for the booking to be made. Local Authorities individually set their licensing policies, which may make some more appealing.
- Love saves the day – PQ had been involved in the planning and will send an update out to the trade. JM advised that the capacity is 30,000. The A370 will be closed, and routes would need to be planned.
- PQ reminded the trade that drivers should be checking their vehicle before starting their shift to check their tyres and lights are OK.

7. Issues from BBLTA and issues from Private Hire

SL asked for an update on the tints policy.

JM It advised it would go to PSP after the local elections, in the meantime standard factory tints are referred to him.

CT asked if there was an update on revocations

PQ advised that he had some information to pass on in relation to this

GO asked about picking up documents from Temple Street?

JM advised it could not be done from Temple Street; other options are being looked at.

JM advised there had been recent conflict between PHV/HCV at Temple Meads. There are videos, and it's unacceptable.

JM and PQ have been meeting with Uber to reinstate a geofence to prevent bookings from being taken from the short stay car park.

8. AOB and Date of next meeting

| Action Point | Matters arising | By Whom | Completed? |
|--------------|---|---------|------------|
| 1 | Add information to Newsletter about submitting documents in advance of renewal | DD | Completed |
| 2 | Legal advice regarding notifying operators of revocations – speak to other Local Authorities regarding providing information on revocations | JM | Ongoing |
| 3 | Look at options for more ranks | KD | Ongoing |
| 5 | Send contact details to DD to circulate to the trade for local plan | SP | Ongoing |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |

Next meeting: TBC