

**TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
24 OCTOBER 2019**

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE TRADE MEETING UPDATE
(Public Protection Manager)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to update the Committee on the communication between Officers and the taxi trade within Bracknell Forest.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee:

- i) **Notes the content of the report and minutes attached, and;**
- ii) **Makes any recommendations on matters discussed or for further discussion in the future of the Group.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.2 The Licensing and Safety Committee asked for an officer/trade meeting be set up to discuss issues of concern following representation of such from the trade with a further wish to receive feedback from the meetings..
- 3.2 Recent issues reported to the department indicate a need for an increase in dialogue with the trade.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 At the meeting on 3 July 2019 attended by officers and 3 representatives from the trade (attached as Appendix One) the following issues were discussed:

Taxi Ranks

Additional rank at Morrisons, The Peel Centre. NK to write to the land owner to ask if they would consider the suggestion. **Update: NK Emailed landowner and agent for the site no response received yet, chaser email sent**

- The Lexicon rank- is not well sign posted; **Update: to be discussed at meeting with Town Centre Management on 16/10/19**
- Implementation of a rank opposite Cineworld – **Update: to be discussed at with Town Centre Management- meeting arranged for 16/10/19.**

Unrestricted

- NK/SM to look at placing cameras at The Waitrose rank as many people are plying for hire or sitting at this rank that shouldn't be. **Update: SM confirmed is looking to buy mobile cameras for the PPP that may be used for this purpose.**
- NK is to speak to Highways about new signs for the taxi ranks. SM agreed PPP will pay for the signs and to see if Highways will put them up for us. **Update: to be discussed at meeting on 16th Oct**
- NK to contact with South West Trains who own the land at the train station taxi rank and ask for a yellow box to be put in front of the rank and repairs made to the pavement **Update: To be followed up after 11th October when David (SW Trains) returns from leave**

Promotion of Local Licensing Regime

- The group talked about promoting the local licensing regime to members of the public and stressing the need to always use vehicles which are licensed.
- Plan to do this by improving the signage, produce posters for notice boards around the borough, articles in newsletter/newspaper, use of door stickers on Bracknell Taxis to help identify them. **Update: NK has received corporate logo from graphics team -trade were to come back to her with suggested wording so this could be discussed further – trade wanted input into the wording as discussed with K Moore- nothing further received from trade. SM confirmed he will be purchasing a advert in Town and Country to promote Taxi Licensing regulation/community safety-e.g use of local licensed vehicles/Get Your Coat**

Taxi Fare Rise

- The fares for licensed hackney carriage vehicles have not been increased since 2011.
- Taxi trade to present a Business case so the matter can be considered by the Licensing and Safety Committee
- **UPDATE: NK advised the sort of information to include-nothing received from the trade as yet**

Complaints

- Several allegations were made. Trade asked that any complaints be sent to Licensing with as much detail as possible including date, times, vehicle registration and photographs if possible so they can be investigated.
- Authorised garages for vehicle inspection tests were discussed-the conditions need to be looked at –it is proposed that these are done in the same way as has been set up in West Berkshire and Wokingham with vehicles being able to use any of the Authorised Garages

Mixed Fleets

- A discussion took place around possibly allowing a mixed fleet for Hackney Carriage vehicles.

- The trade were asked to put together a case to take to committee to include actual figures of how many wheelchair users were picked up in a month's period. **Update: nothing received as yet**
- It was agreed if a driver does not feel capable or safe escorting a wheelchair user into their vehicle then they can explain this to the member of the public explaining the safety elements and also send an email to licensing.all@bracknell-forest.gov.uk to advise so the team are aware in case of complaint.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 The Council has a duty to protect the public. To take no action could be criticised should there be a public enquiry into an incident in Bracknell Forest.

Background Papers

Minutes from trade liaison meeting 03/07/19

Contact for further information

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