

Minutes of the York Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Associations
1st November 2023

Attendees

Dave Cowley Licensing Manager
 Martin Bisby Licencing Officer
 Will Swords Station Taxis
 Neil Rowley (Chair) York Private Hire Association
 Arfan Asif YTA
 Tony Green (chair) ITA
 Dany Smith (Vice Chair) ITA

		Action Log
1.	Introductions DC welcome to the meeting	
2.	Guest Speaker (York Station Gateway Project) DC apologies our guest speaker appears not to be attending.	
3.	<p>Taxi and Private Hire Trade Forum Agreement</p> <p>WS started to discuss the membership of an association and that not all drivers were aware of which association they belong to. Can a list be shared between associations?</p> <p>AA added that he spoke to one driver who said he is part of all the associations.</p> <p>TG accepts anyone asking for help or advice regardless of them being in an association or not belonging, he is personally disappointed by the new association being formed and that it has been formed for the wrong reasons.</p> <p>DC reminded everyone that inclusion and diversity is applied to everyone.</p> <p>DS asked how many were ex Uber / Bradford drivers?</p> <p>AA replied that it was not knowing who was who.</p> <p>WS said they were also setting up a company as well as an association.</p> <p>DC going back to basics, what is an association? Someone is wanting to set up a business to operate with a view to using modern applications (apps) to book a journey. A trade body representing drivers, we are happy as a council to speak and deal with association trade bodies.</p> <p>TG Unions are a good way of accessing information and good as a backup.</p> <p>DC take away long term benefits of an association against the competition from West Yorkshire and York Combined Authority would result in driver saturation.</p> <p>DS we set up an App but it failed because of competition from others PH companies, the association didn't have the money to advertise the</p>	

	<p>App.WS we have an App for bookings but when successful people don't want to use the App, you can't beat companies. TG drivers don't want App rather work through the rank. DS rank won't accept App jobs in hope of more lucrative rank job. DC new association haven't been invited today because of this discussion. AA (Redacted Name) is at odds with the association because of rent increase. WS asked if he was a member of YCTA AA can we check who owns what plate? reason 2 plates and vehicles being sublet TG says members are herded. AA says members are coerced. DC the booking office is for Hackney Carriage a separate telephone line is for Private Hire, look at the associations that are professional and work without us as opposed to associations just for work, if they fail recourse by us is to look at what is happening, if Private Hire operator company can ask through an association for booking records, DPA required take away and return if happy. AA how did this work in Leeds? DC worked by complying with articles of association all had bookings with an App, 1400 Uber, 1400 Amber Cars and 1000 with Arrow it also worked well because of the WAV numbers and linked to association for bookings. WS possibly fulfil but will eventually fall by the wayside. DC to send agreement by email, data share agreement between us. TC there is animosity between associations.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Bus lane update NR agenda item DC we have started the process of bus lane in relation to the council, moving traffic violations are normally the police admin, new legislation allows CYC to pick up via parking services and TRO's Section 4 + 8 covers bus lanes, interpretation of the law some courts will allow local / some HCV only / others allow all. DC HCV classed as public service and PHV are hire and reward we're trying to be careful with Highways and Parking Services whilst gathering info for Highways, its not a HCPHS issue although input is helpful and agreement for service for local licences and exclude out of town only penalises the public we are trying to protect. WS Out of town would challenge saying a PHV is a PHV wherever they are licensed. DC some councils achieve by TRO's but this needs to right in light of challenges DC how many bus lanes and camera's WS mentioned tickets had been issued for Viners House (?) council can't ticket but a private firm can. DC updates awaiting highways to contact and update before next meeting, HCPHS support the application of local only.</p>	

	<p>WS asked if other authorities can be barred if they work for local operator. DS before Covid -19 David Cameron put in place but not implemented why? DC deregulation Act 2015 said sister operators were working as subcontract. Skyline case where the fees involved for license as in the case of Wolverhampton and Wakefield. TG what ids the motivation for all these licenses. DC we don't want to be in the position as other councils. AA insurance picky on how far from Local Authority to work. DC Difficult to address because of trinity of licences, they can send vehicle anywhere, Merseyside ands case law involving Sefton council, there was a bill going through Parliament this was pushed back, there is a white paper in Wales being discussed regarding cross border hiring. DC off topic, reference Enforcement and defect reports a scale of 1 to 3 will be recorded this will include out of town vehicles, LA's are a list of vehicles checked including Section 68 notices.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Taxi Ranks and Locations AA ranks and locations reference the Christmas markets. DC spoken with highways about closures awaiting updates. DS a couple of drivers still use the rank by the old roman baths, a s HMV work is disrupting. AA there is no clear signage of ranks, no signs in town to direct customers to ranks. DS spoke to Uber drivers outside the salvatation, filmed a customer attempt to pick up. DC there is a list of ranks in the policy booklet, may need to look at the footfall at these ranks to see if they are used, looking at bus stops being used as 2 car ranks at night-time, Duncombe place is a priority because of the residents, need to arrange a meeting at Duncombe place with highways. DS not enough signage DC prioritise which ranks.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Vehicle Tests (cost and conditions) NR timing vehicle inspections, costs, unable to view what is happening costs separate, licence is £199.00, letters, diary, equipment certain costs are free depending on test items, other councils incorporate admin as total fee, Leeds do free, but charge retests fees include 1 hour + admin, there is a dedicated tester for HCPHS and a new team introducing vehicle standards, 95% complete awaiting policy introduction 3 documents, our policy, MoT manual and FTA documents AA can we adopt same as others by allowing MoT centres to inspect. DC policy needs to be implemented first before inspections take place reference to testing schedules of twice per year balanced to suit</p>	

	expense against inspections, more training with workshop staff, either an MoT window to watch the inspections or CCTV remote monitor.	
8.	<p>Driver Medicals</p> <p>NR can medicals be conducted by other GP's</p> <p>DC this is already available to applicants, Section 58 states we have to be satisfied that an applicant is fit, letters are sent approximately 2 months before due date.</p> <p>DC if no attempt at completing a medical a decision would be made on suspension.</p>	
9.	<p>Plying for Hire by out of town private hire</p> <p>AA plying for hire, videos, pictures constantly being sent now getting out of hand.</p> <p>DC the increase in the EO team to run plying for hire operations and two night-time operations</p> <p>DS plain clothes operations not noticed but high viz out of town vehicles scatter.</p> <p>DC aware that whatsapp group reporting whereabouts, hi-viz is usually vehicle condition and plain clothes targeting specific operation.</p> <p>AA not enough fear factor for plying for hire.</p> <p>DC we are making sure our solicitors are happy with the prosecution files there are 2nd and 3rd to follow. I can share case law ref plying for hire (examples of case law were discussed under free conversation)</p>	
10.	<p>VisitYork map and Ranks.</p> <p>AA visitors to York, nothing to show visitors where ranks are situated.</p> <p>DC CYC part fund the large city maps on display there are various funds from CYC and advertisers, the changes to digital maps then street maps will follow.</p>	
11.	<p>Taxi Licensing Policy</p> <p>DC taxi policy must include access to everyone and signpost to legislation, ref Euro 6 diesel and petrol engines across the board, consider how long vehicles are licensed for. Standards based on age / emissions to determine condition of vehicle.</p> <p>AA stated difference in vehicle conditions varying between owners.</p> <p>DC we may extend the ages by conditional tests.</p>	
12.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>AA in any other business asked has the unmet demand survey been conducted.</p> <p>WS window tint has this been put out for consultation?</p> <p>DC that is going to be going out with the full policy consultation.</p> <p>General free discussion reference plate issuing and the style of plate and reporting of mis placed plates.</p> <p>NR I hear (Operator) are appealing their conditions.</p> <p>DC there are 2 appeals in court this month.</p>	

	<p>NR have any of their drivers not taken the knowledge test. DC conditions attached ie drug test they can appeal then its status quo until outcome resolved, operators can appeal to conditions too, DC unable to comment on specific cases in question. Meeting ended</p>	
	<p>Next meeting date: TBC</p>	