

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FORUM MEETING

Venue: Virtual via Zoom

Agenda: 22 April 2022

Attendees and who they represent:

Jonathan Martin (**JM**) (Chair) representing Bristol City Council
Sarah Flower (**SF**) representing Bristol City Council
Patrick Quinton (**PQ**) representing Police, Taxi Compliance Officer
Shammi Raichura (**SR**) representing Uber
Clive Burdett (**CB**) representing Unite
Saif Hussain (**SH**) representing BBLTA
Gary O'Neill (**GO**) Private Hire Driver
Steve Lohia (**SL**) representing BDriven
Mahad Jama (**MJ**) representing Magan Taxis
Mohamed Aideed (**MA**) (Bristol Blue Taxis)
Des Broster (**DB**) (V Cars)
Nadeem Malik (**NM**) HC Driver
Martin Davis (**MD**) - Representing Bristol City Council Transport
James Morvan (**JM**) – Representing Bristol City Council – Strategic City Transport
Imran Ali (**IA**) – HC Driver
Gill Calloway – (**GC**) representing Bristol City Council Sustainable Transport

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

- Apologies
- Guy Poultney (**GP**), Chair, representing Bristol City Council
- Patsy Mellor (**PM**) Director, Management of Place representing Bristol City Council

2. Agree minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 22 February 2022

Actions:

- None

3. Licensing Team update (JM)

JM updated the forum on a number of points:

- Recruitment has been undertaken in Licensing which is hoping to offset some of the backlogs.
- Mandatory training – Drivers have provided feedback and courses are continuing
- DFT Best Practice – ongoing work continuing in Licensing. Government released document for Local Authorities this is not statutory unlike National Standards. This is consultation only, you will be informed once document prepared, not recommending for use in Bristol. The document will be going to the PSP working group which consists of Committee Members, Officers and Legal
- DB – sent robust concerns to DFT, brushed concerns aside so raising this higher up.
- JM – Comments regarding tints on vehicles. Policy consultation last year we had information from visual impairment groups which enforced the need for not allowing tints.
- PQ – will be responding on behalf on Chief Constable. What if we don't agree to implement changes and what impact is there on the Local Authority.
- JM -Not mandatory. But if a party is aggrieved by local decision could judicially review.

4. Clean Air Zone Grant (JM)

- Ran through presentation, giving a list of financial support available
- Discussion around funding and what is available for HC and PH vehicles
- Presentation will be shared to members of the forum
- Funding will be made available to Local Authorities for charging points
- **Action SF:** provide details of where charging points will be in Bristol

5. Try Before you Buy Electric Vehicles (GC)

- Ran through presentation. £3.2million funding from National Highways
- Purpose built LEVC hackney will be coming soon
- Scheme open to Bristol sole traders and for taxis to BCC licensed proprietors and drivers and will prioritise non compliant/life expired vehicles. Must make frequent trips in and out of the City on the M32 or other main roads in Clean Air Zone.
- £250 refundable deposit
- Energy Saving Trust have some good information available on their website

6. Taxicop update (PQ)

- Starting 5th year as “Taxi Cop”
- Mobile phone laws, as long as in cradle ok to use and not taking attention away from driving, fact sheet sent out.
- Event season is coming up and information will be sent to the Whatsapp group
- Free training on CPR training for drivers. Will be arranging, time and dates tbc, all free of charge.

- DB – Patrick received national recognition from NALEO for Taxi compliance work, sending thanks as well.

7. Taxi fares (JM)

- BBLTA have submitted fare review and JM has a meeting with exec member to discuss this on 28th April.

8. Issues from BBTLA and issues from PH

- SH Licence renewals are taking a long time
- CB - Want the ability to be able to see an officer and drop off paperwork
- JM – Not able to do this due to Covid and CSP as advised in previous email to the trade
- SF- too many emails with attachments being sent through, easier to send through one email with all documents rather than multiple emails
- MA – raised point that having officer would make it easier as not all drivers are computer literate
- GO – Asking turnaround times, is chat function available to speak to officer.
- JM – Not a possibility due to IT constraints
- SL – convene a meeting of operators to see if drivers can be brought back into Bristol. Central collection/drop off point would be ideal. Re electric vehicles, Tesla won't allow you to use their charging point if vehicle being used as a taxi/private hire vehicle.
- GO – any chance of having face to face taxi forums again and arranging a meeting with other councils
- JM – Continue with virtual forums, but meet in person every 6 months

9. AOB

- PQ – Thanks to Martin Davis regarding road closure emails. Mobile surgeries, should they continue? JM – fortnightly
- SL & MA – link doesn't appear to be working to apply online the link in the renewal doesn't work. **Action SF** to look into.
- SH – renewals. Could there be an online portal available to make it easier for drivers as feels sorry for the Council dealing with a lot of emails.
- JM – Software provider problems. Government keep changing the goalpost making it a very difficult to deal with.
- DS – We are very lucky to have this forum in Bristol so thank you.
- MA – you do a really good job but more communication would be quicker and easier

10. Actions for next meeting:

Action Point	Matters arising	By Whom	Completed?
1	Provide details of charging points for electric vehicles	SF	
2	Online renewal links are not working in renewal emails. Investigate cause.	SF	
3			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Next meeting: TBC 2022 11:00-13:00