

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 16th July, 2014

Present:-

Representing Chesterfield Borough Council

Councillor Jean Innes
Councillor David Allen
Councillor Bob Gibson
Russell Sinclair – Environmental Health Manager
Stephen Oliver – Assistant Solicitor

Representing Derbyshire County Council

Simon Tranter – Traffic and Safety
Bridget Gould – Traffic and Safety

Representing Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector John Turner

Representing the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade

Jim Brookbank

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Innes was appointed as Chair of the Taxi Consultative Committee.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Allen was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Taxi Consultative Committee.

3 SELECTION OF TRADE REPRESENTATIVES

Further to the nominations made to the meeting on 9 June, 2014, the representatives appointed were:

Representing Hackney Carriage Licence Holders:

Mr C Brown
Mr S Atkin
Ms M Briddon
Reserve – Mr S Bradshaw

Representing Private Hire Licence Holders:

Mr S Aldersley
Mr J Brookbank
Ms A Dickens
Reserve – Ms V Naylor

4 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

No declarations of interest were received.

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Aldersley, Mr S Atkin, Ms M Briddon, Mr C Brown, Ms A Dickens, Ms G Dowson and Mr T Durham.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April, 2014 were agreed as a true record.

7 MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

Accident Rates for Taxis and Buses

As no further details had been received regarding the requested inclusion of this item, it was agreed that it be removed.

Town Centre Road Closures

Inspector Turner reported that Inspector Ball had received a positive response from Pubwatch to the trial of the removal of the restrictions when he had met them in February.

Violence to Taxi Drivers

Inspector Turner reported that a Taxi Fares Disputes advice sheet regarding civil and criminal offences had been created between the Police and the Council's Licensing Department, which had been circulated to the taxi companies. A copy would also be sent out on licence renewal and applications. A copy of the advice sheet was attached as an Appendix to the agenda.

Wheelchair Accessibility Exercise

The Licensing Officer reported that no further wheelchair test operations had taken place as the Licensing Policy was under review and no specific issues had been highlighted.

Review of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Policy

The Environmental Health Manager reported that the Policy was currently out for consultation with comments to be submitted to the Licensing Department by 31 July, 2014. It would then be considered through the Council's Scrutiny process, prior to submission of a report to the Appeals and Regulatory Committee. A copy of the letter which had been sent to the trade highlighting the main policy changes was attached as an Appendix to the agenda and the main policy document could be accessed on the Council's website.

8 SAFETY INSPECTIONS OF VEHICLES BETWEEN TESTS

As this item had been included on the agenda at the request of Steve Aldersley, in his absence, it was agreed that it be deferred until the next meeting.

9 DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Simon Tranter reported that the new proposals for taxis at West Bars had started that week. He had also met and agreed with trade representatives the proposed arrangements in respect of Stephenson Place. A report would be submitted to the County Council Cabinet in August to recommend the proposed arrangements, which, if approved, would be implemented over the coming months.

10 **POLICE ISSUES**

Inspector Turner provided crime figures for the period 1 April, 2014 to 30 June 2014 for the Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Policing sections:-

17 occasions where the driver was the victim
0 occasions where a taxi company was the victim
2 occasions where a member of the public was the victim
2 occasions where the driver was an offender
1 crime was racially or religiously aggravated

Timing – 9 crimes were between 0000 hours and 0600 hours.

Violence against drivers – 3 threatening behaviour

Crime breakdown:

12 – making off without payment
2 – damage to vehicle
1 – actual bodily harm
2 – threatening behaviour racial/religious
1 - threatening behaviour
1 - theft

The figures showed a reduction in the number of reported incidents since the previous quarter.

It was noted that not all incidents of passengers making off without payment were reported to the Police. The advice sheet that had been prepared in respect of Fare Disputes would also be distributed to Police officers.

11 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was provisionally agreed to meet on Wednesday, 8 October, 2014, commencing at 6.00 pm, (with a reserve date of 22 October, 2014 if necessary).