



Please ask for Brian Offiler
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The Chair and Members of Taxi
Consultative Committee

3 July, 2019

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE to be held on WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY 2019 at 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chesterfield, S40 1LP, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Confirmation of Members Appointed and Trade Representatives Nominated for 2019-2021 (Pages 3 - 4)
2. Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to Items on the Agenda
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10 April, 2019 (Pages 5 - 8)
5. Matters Arising on the Minutes
6. Draft Annual Report - Taxi Consultative Committee - 2018/19 (Pages 9 - 16)
7. Police Issues
8. Derbyshire County Council Highways Issues

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9. Proposed Amendments to Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing Policy
10. Actions Taken by the Licensing Team since the Last meeting

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

10 JULY, 2019

CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERS APPOINTED AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED FOR 2019-21

1. Confirmation of Members Appointed

- 1.1 Following the Borough Council elections on 2 May, 2019, the following elected members have been appointed to serve on the Taxi Consultative Committee for a period of two years from June, 2019 until May, 2021:
- Councillor Kate Caulfield (Chair)
 - Councillor Dean Collins (Vice-Chair)
 - Councillor Paul Niblock

2. Trade Representatives Nominated

- 2.1 Nominations were invited in May, 2019 from the taxi licensing trade for the following number of representatives to serve on the Taxi Consultative Committee from June, 2019 for a period of two years until May, 2021:
- three hackney carriage licence holders (drivers or owners)
 - three private hire vehicle licence holders (drivers, owners or operators).
- 2.2 As specified by the Committee's terms of reference (as agreed in 2017) nominations required the signatures of ten other licence holders in support of the nomination.
- 2.3 To date the following nomination forms have been received:
- To represent Private Hire Licence Holders:
 - Mr James Brookbank (with support of 10 licence holders)
 - Mr Mahfozur Rahman (with support of 6 licence holders)
 - Mrs Ann Dickens (with support of 8 licence holders)

- To represent Hackney Carriage Licence Holders:
 - No nominations received

2.4 It is proposed that the Taxi Consultative Committee:

2.4.1 confirm the appointment of Mr James Brookbank as a representative of private hire vehicle licence holders;

2.4.2 in the absence of other nominations with the support of 10 licence holders, and subject to the subsequent approval by the Appeals and Regulatory Committee of a revision to the Committee's terms of reference to allow the appointment of nominated representatives supported by fewer than 10 licence holders, provisionally confirm the appointment of Mr Mahfozur Rahman and Mrs Ann Dickens as representatives of private hire vehicle licence holders;

2.4.3 agree that a further invitation be issued to seek nominations to the three representatives of hackney carriage licence holders.

Brian Offiler
Democratic & Scrutiny Officer

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10th April, 2019

Present:-

Representing Chesterfield Borough Council:

Councillor K Caulfield (Chair)
Councillor J Burrows
Trevor Durham

Representing the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade:

Stephen Atkin
Jim Brookbank
Ann Dickens

Representing Derbyshire County Council:

Simon Tranter

Representing Derbyshire Police:

Inspector Dave Nicholls

27 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

28 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Brown, Stephen Oliver and Ian Waller.

29 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January, 2019 were agreed as a true record.

consultation would be undertaken leading to a decision by the County Council Strategic Director. It was expected that the whole process would take 3 – 4 months, and it was suggested that the timescales be coordinated as far as possible with the development work on the ground.

33 ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE LICENSING TEAM SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Further to Minute No. 25, it was confirmed that the Chair and Councillor Burrows had met with Chris Brown and Mandy Shaw about the legislative requirements for community transport vehicles working on school transport contracts, and Chris Brown had agreed to pursue these with the local MP.

Trevor Durham reported that during the past three months one driver's licence had been revoked and two appeals against revocation had been successfully defended.

The computerised knowledge test was due to go live at the end of April at the lower cost of £50, resulting in more tests being available.

39 vehicles had failed the six-monthly vehicle test, with it being necessary to issue penalty points on two occasions and warnings on six occasions.

It was noted that the Council had responded to the recent national government consultation on taxi and private hire licensing entitled 'Protecting Users', details of which had been circulated to the trade. Trade representatives were encouraged to respond to the consultation before the 22 April deadline.

It was noted that invitations for the nomination of trade representatives to serve on the Committee from June, 2019 to May, 2021 would be distributed shortly, to be received by 20 May, 2019.

34 THANKS

The Chair thanked all the representatives and officers for their contribution to the work of the Committee as this was the last meeting of the current Council year prior to the Borough Council elections on 2 May, 2019. She particularly thanked Councillors Burrows and V Diouf who were not standing for re-election.

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CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19

Taxi Consultative Committee

Chesterfield Borough Council

Annual Report 2018/19

1. Background

- 1.1 The Taxi Consultative Committee was established in March 2011 as an informal consultative body for the Council and the taxi trade locally in Chesterfield.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Committee is to meet with local representatives of the taxi trade to discuss matters of mutual concern and interest relating to the licensing of vehicles, drivers and operators.
- 1.3 The Committee's aim is to act as a representative body for the whole hackney carriage and private hire trade, ensuring consultation with all licence holders to enable the Council to make fully informed decisions, through the delegated authority granted to the Appeals and Regulatory Committee or appropriate Council officers.
- 1.4 The Committee's terms of reference are included in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. These terms of reference were most recently reviewed and updated in May, 2017.

2. Membership and Meetings

- 2.1 The Committee meets at least four times per year. During 2018/19 it met a total of four times in July and October, 2018 and January and April, 2019.

2.2 The Committee is composed of nine members - three hackney carriage licence holders (persons who drive or own a hackney carriage), three private hire licence holders (persons who operate or drive or own a private hire vehicle) and three elected members of the Council (selected in accordance with the political balance of the Council).

2.3 For 2018/19 the three elected members were:

Councillor Caulfield (Chair)
Councillor Burrows (Vice-Chair)
Councillor V Diouf

the three hackney carriage licence holders were:

Mr S Atkin
Mr C Brown
Ms M Shaw

and the private hire licence holders were:

Mr J Brookbank
Ms A Dickens
Mr D Madin

2.4 In addition to the above nine members of the Committee, officers from the Council's Licensing and Legal sections and from the Police and Derbyshire County Council Highways department are invited to attend the Committee to advise the Committee members.

2.5 Attendance at meetings during 2018/19 has been lower than in the previous year with average attendance as follows:

Average Attendance	2017/18	2018/19
Elected members	2.25	1.5
Hackney carriage representatives	2.75	2.0
Private hire representatives	2.75	1.75

3. Issues Considered

- 3.1 At each of its meetings the Committee considers the reported crime figures relating to the taxi trade in the Chesterfield and the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire policing sections, along with any other Police related matters, issues relating to Derbyshire County Council Highways and actions taken by the Licensing team since the previous meeting.
- 3.2 The taxi related crime figures varied between 21 and 35 in the four quarters of the year, with an average of 29.5 per quarter. This is very similar to the figures for 2017/18, when the average was 30 per quarter.
- 3.3 The most common type of crime was passengers making off without payment, making up 57.6 % of the total number of reported crimes.
- 3.4 There have been two main Highways issues considered by the Committee during the year:
- Firstly, the implementation of the decision taken in April, 2018 for the use of bus lanes in Chesterfield by hackney carriages, initially on an 18 months experimental period commencing in October, 2018.

- Secondly, the proposals for the public realm improvements on Elder Way and Knifesmithgate, including the revised location of the taxi rank to Knifesmithgate.

3.5 The Licensing team has reported to each meeting on the number of licences suspended or revoked and the number of vehicles which had failed the vehicle test in each quarter. It has also reported on the progress of the Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training programme and consulted on proposed amendments to the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy and the licensing and registration fees.

3.6 In addition to these standard items, the Committee has also considered the following issues during 2018/19:

- Discussion with representatives from Public Health and British Transport Police on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Partnership Forum on initiatives and awareness training opportunities to help to reduce deaths from suicide;
- Arrangements for addressing issues of anti-social behaviour in the town centre;
- Revised arrangements for the testing of vehicles and the issuing of licence plates at the Eckington test station;
- The availability of appointments for applicants to undertake the knowledge test and the introduction of an electronic system of knowledge tests to improve availability and consistency;
- Issues relating to drop-off and pick-up areas at the Royal Hospital and train station;
- Legislative requirements for community transport vehicles working on school transport contracts.

4. The Committee's Main Achievements / Outcomes

- 4.1 Implementation of an 18 months experimental period for the use of bus lanes in Chesterfield town centre by hackney carriages.
- 4.2 Greater availability of test appointments for applicants and the introduction of an electronic system of knowledge tests to speed up the process of applying for a licence.
- 4.3 Information made available to operators and drivers about the Suicide Prevention Partnership Forum initiatives and awareness training opportunities to help to reduce deaths from suicide.
- 4.4 Improved arrangements for the testing of vehicles and the issuing of licence plates at the Eckington test station.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Committee has continued to provide a forum for the consideration of matters of mutual concern relating to the hackney carriage and private hire trade locally, with input from the Council's Licensing team, the Police and the County Council Highways team.
- 5.2 The role of trade representatives in raising concerns, considering issues and communicating with other members of the trade more widely is a positive and valued contribution.
- 5.3 The Committee aims to continue to operate as an informal consultative body in the year ahead to enable relevant matters to be considered and to inform the

practical application of licensing procedures and decisions to be taken by officers or formal decision making bodies.

Councillor Kate Caulfield
Chair, Taxi Consultative Committee
Chesterfield Borough Council

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