



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19

Taxi Consultative Committee

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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