Notes of the Meeting
Taxi Liaison Group

Wednesday 14th June 2017 - 10am
Council Chamber, Crescent Gardens

Attendance

Cllr Stuart Martin  Chair of Licensing Committee
Gareth Bentley  Food, Licensing and Occupational Safety Manager
Chris Doyle  Taxi Licensing Enforcement Officer
Kevin O’Boyle  Central Taxis
Dave Travis  Compliance Technical Officer, NYCC
John Higgins  Spa and Westminster Insurance
Anthony Pedley  Blueline
Nawazish Khan  Senior Admin Officer

1. INTRODUCTIONS
GB introduced Cllr Stuart Martin to the group.

2. APOLOGIES
Steve Rogers.

3. RECORD OF LAST MEETING (15 Feb 2017)
GB advised that the new fare increase came into force on 1st May 2017 and drivers have been provided with their new fare cards.
He also told the group that the Tour De Yorkshire went smoothly. The group agreed.

4. CSE Training
GB informed the group about the upcoming Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training. This training will be free of charge to all licensed drivers and those who had not attended previously had been invited. The same training was provided in 2015 and a lot of drivers attended the training sessions. Operators are advised to encourage their drivers to attend this training as it may become compulsory for all licensed drivers to attend this in the future.

If a driver has already attended this training, they are not required to be present.

5. Incentives to Licence WAV’s
JH advised that as there was no increase in hackney plates at the result of last unmet demand survey, would the Council consider giving drivers any
incentive if they buy a WAV? He gave examples of another Council where drivers receive a grant for eco vehicles etc.

GB advised that he is willing to consider any proposals to incorporate into the Councils strategy to incentivise investment in wheelchair vehicles. However, operators should try to advertise the WAV fleet more and use all the tools to hand to ensure customers know how to use their services. GB and CD were exploring ways to promote the services of wheelchair vehicles and therefore increase their viability.

JH and KOB asked if their drivers can charge more for the journeys where they are carrying a passenger with a wheelchair in their vehicle. It was made clear that the Equality Act forbids such practice.

JH also asked if NYCC is willing to designate space in town centre for the WAV’s to load and unload. CD suggested that the trade should lobby collectively and pose the question to NYCC.

6. Enforcement Matters

CD advised that he has been dealing with a number of enforcement issues.

A driver’s dual driving licence was revoked by the council and Skipton Magistrates Courts has upheld the council’s decision when the driver appealed against the decision.

Another driver’s dual driving licence has been revoked due a various licensing offences and aggressive behaviour.

He further advised that a driver has been suspended for various licensing and driving offences. Another driver has been suspended for notching up more than 12 points on his driving licence.

CD also informed the group that he is currently observing vehicles working without the council livery.

KOB raised his concerns regarding the decision-making process in the licensing office. GB advised that the council officers were making decisions according to procedures and that a procedure for suspension and revocation was now in use. Each case is treated on its own merits.

Next Meeting - Wednesday 16 August 2017 – 10.00am Crescent Gardens, Council Chamber.