

Taxi Liaison Group (TLG) meeting minutes
Thursday 4th February 2016, 10:00hrs

Royal British Legion Staple Hill & District Branch (Conference room), Kendall Road, Staple Hill, BS16 4NB

Chair: Councillor Keith Cranney (KC)

Councillors: Councillor Tony Davis (TD), Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

SGC Licensing: Kevin Barley (KB)

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service: Sharon Shaw (SS), Paul Venn (PV), Mike Worley (MW), Janet Platten (JP), Tony Lidbury (TL)

Apologies: Dave Blake (DB)

Item			Action
1	Welcome	(KC) welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:15hrs	
2	Previous minutes and matters arising	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes and subsequent actions were discussed.</p> <p>Broad Lane Garage - A question was previously raised about making extra appointments available, (KB) has asked garage staff to make two appointment slots available in morning, and two in the afternoon, amending the existing three appointment slots for morning only at the current time. (KB) will advise of decision.</p> <p>(KB) confirmed from DVLA and Diabetes UK that insulin medication dependent diabetes at Group 2 standard requires a yearly medical. Those persons treating diabetes by diet only, diet & tablet, tablets or non-insulin injections will not require a yearly medical at this time but must strictly follow DVLA guidance.</p> <p>(TL) confirmed that 10 minute parking/waiting restriction is at all Lidl stores and not just the Yate store.</p> <p>(MW) queried the ANPR system at Parkway Station, and the issuing of penalty notices to licensed vehicles. (KB) assured the group that the Station Manager will receive a copy of the register of all current SGC licensed vehicles if queries arise, this register is also provided to SGC Parking Services on a regular basis in relation to bus lanes.</p> <p>All agreed minutes and were signed off as a true and accurate reflection.</p>	KB

3	Community Transport – item raised by Mrs Sharon Shaw at Full Council meeting on 13th October 2015, response from Mr Steve Evans/ Integrated Transport Unit?	<p>(SS) gave an update regarding the questions raised about Community Transport at the Full Council meeting. (SS) had met and held a discussion with Mr Steve Evans, Director of Environment and Community Services, after the Full Council meeting and re-iterated the points that had been made, particularly in reference to the unfair playing field with Community Transport given they receive funding from SGC Area Forums, and are direct competition to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Service. A letter of explanation was received from Mr Evans, dated 16rd November.</p> <p>(SS), (MW), (PV) and (JP), all agreed that the Community Transport Operators are being funded from tax payers money through award of Area Forum grants. It is known that the administrative and transport costs are covered by members/persons using the service. The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Service do not receive any funding from SGC, therefore it is not a level playing field.</p> <p>(TD) stated that a meeting with one of the Community Transport operators could be possible and he would speak with them direct.</p> <p>(MW) also raised the idea of taxi tokens to be used for community transport.</p>	TD
4	South Gloucestershire Bus Lanes – item raised by Mrs Sharon Shaw at Full Council meeting on 13th October 2015, response from Transportation & Highways?	<p>(SS) stated again that she had re-iterated her points to Mr Steve Evans following the Full Council meeting, Mr Evans had stated that the MetroBus project is of particular importance, meaning that any changes would not be made until this was in place. Again, a letter of explanation was received from Mr Evans, dated 16rd November.</p> <p>(JP) stated that she had spoken with Mr Mark Pullin, who manages SGC Parking Services, about Highwood Lane, Patchway and that the signage for the bus lane is not enforceable and all historical fixed penalty notices could be questioned.</p> <p>The group then discussed Community Transport vehicles using bus lanes and whether this was permitted under the Traffic Regulation Orders, as they have no top signs.</p>	
		(SP) left the meeting at 10.45hrs	
5	Annual review of Hackney Carriage Table of Tariff and	(KB) stated that a report had been prepared for the Regulatory Committee meeting taking place at Kingswood in the afternoon (4 th February). The report is based on the	

	Fares commencing 1 st April 2016 – item listed for Regulatory Committee meeting on 4 th February	existing methodology and because of the significant drop in fuel prices in the last six months this has had a bearing to suggest that fares could be decreased. The report does recommend that there be ‘no change’ to the Table of Tariffs and Fares, this is for the Committee to determine and agree before going out to public consultation, (KB) will send out details of the public consultation to the group, which will also be advertised in the Bristol Post. The Table of Tariffs and Fares will then be finally agreed by the Committee on 17 th March, taking into account all consultation responses received.	KB
6	Taxi Policy review (2015-20) – WAV feasibility study (questionnaire) completed as Equality Act 2010 guidelines, included as part of agenda for Regulatory Committee meeting on 17 th March. Also a proposal to amend the content the private hire element of the knowledge test in line with Deregulation proposals	<p>(KB) stated that he had been working with Dan Wood, SGC Equalities Officer, and the Equalities Impact Assessment and Analysis was nearing completion for the draft amended Taxi Policy. The equalities consultation had seen around 1500 responses received, from predominantly blue badge holders, and licensed drivers, operators and vehicle proprietors. There was some very useful feedback from those blue badge holders who use hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, and from the licensed drivers themselves. (KB) stated in summary that the analysis suggests people feel 1 in 3 or 1 in 5 licensed vehicles could be suitable ratios for wheelchair accessible vehicles, as part of the SGC licensed fleet.</p> <p>As before this will be part of the report that will be produced for the Regulatory Committee when considering the whole draft Taxi Policy on the 17th March (Kingswood Council Chamber, 11am). (KB) apologised that this had been moved back a few weeks due to the workload, but that all persons will be able to make full comment once the 12 week public consultation has commenced.</p> <p>(KB) stated that he will be briefing the Lead Members beforehand to recommend that the relaxation of the knowledge test for potential private hire driver applicants only, be approved on the 17th March without need for public consultation, this will be a recommendation in the report. (MW) and other members of the group have requested if they can view the draft policy proposals beforehand, (KB) agreed this will be sent to the group, as well as the link to the Committee report once it is on the SGC website.</p>	KB
7	Licensing Fees – annual review of fees and charges included as part of agenda for Regulatory Committee meeting	As before this will be a report that will be produced for the Regulatory Committee when considering all Licensing fees and charges intended for 17 th March (Kingswood Council Chamber, 11am). (KB) again apologised that this had been moved back a few weeks due to the workload in reviewing all the licensing functions, but that all persons will be able to make full comment once the public consultation has	

	on 17 th March.	commenced, details will be sent to the group.	KB
8	Deregulation Act 2015 – changes brought about by the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire clauses, feedback from Licensing Authority and Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service	(KB) asked if any of the group had read PHTM magazine (January 2016 edition) in reference to Bryan Roland's, National Private Hire Association, comments about the Deregulation Act 2015 clauses and the uncertainty over the Law Commission review and draft bill produced for Government to consider. (KB) was seeking feedback from/about Private Hire Operators regarding sub-contracting, there was little response from the group other than this was already happening before the clause came into effect.	
9	Taxi licensing enforcement update – compliance checks at schools and colleges	<p>(KB) stated that compliance checks continue to take place at schools and colleges alongside ITU Officers. There will be a joint local authority and Police operation at Bristol International Airport in the future, led by North Somerset Council. Other intelligence led inspections continue to take place, and compliance checks at UWE, Kingswood and Parkway have taken place in recent weeks.</p> <p>(SS) questioned why other local authorities are taking action against vehicles licensed in other authorities but SGC Licensing do not do the same with out of district vehicles (OOD's) working in South Gloucestershire. (KB) stated that Bristol City Council (BCC) do carry out a lot of enforcement in relation to OOD's and SGC Licensing Officers regularly offer to carry out joint inspections with BCC Officers of vehicles in both districts to deter OOD vehicles operating illegally. There have been past instances of OOD vehicles being issued PG9's as part of DVSA/Police/SGC joint operations.</p>	
10	Safeguarding (Child Sexual Exploitation) training sessions for all SGC licensed drivers, next training session on Wednesday 10 th February at Baileys Court Activity Centre	<p>(KB) re-iterated to the group members that it is the intention of this Licensing Authority to provide training to all current and new licensed drivers in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE). The first (pilot) training session is booked for Wednesday 10th February @ 10.30am at Baileys Court Activity Centre (Orchard Room) and is being provided by Sue Wheeler of Barnardo's who is based in Bristol. (KB) stated that only Parkway Station drivers had been invited at this time given the close proximity to the training venue, but it is open to all drivers if places remain. Further training sessions will take place around the district in future months.</p> <p>The group then had a general discussion that Disclosure & Barring Service enhanced checks do not necessarily prevent persons from driving 'O' Licence vehicles, and vigilance is required in promoting public safety.</p>	
11	Any other business	<u>Trading names</u>	

		(TL) asked the question whether Hackney or Private Hire companies can have the same or similar trading names in the same district. (KB) asked (TL) to send him details of the points of law that he had found and will send on to Trading Standards and SGC Legal Services to clarify on the requirements.	
12	Date and venue of next meeting	Proposed for Thursday 9 th June 2016, proposed venues were Bradley Stoke Social Club, Jubilee Centre or Shire Way.	

Next Meeting: 12:15hrs, Wednesday 25th May 2016 @ Shire Way
Community Association (Skittle Hall), Shire Way, Yate, BS37 8YS