

**Taxi Liaison Group (TLG) meeting minutes**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 10:30hrs**

**Yate Outdoor Sports Centre, Yate**

**Chair:** Councillor Keith Cranney (KC)

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

**SGC Licensing:** Kevin Barley (KB)

**Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service:** Juan Sanzo (JS), Julian Clarke (JC), Sharon Shaw (SS), Paul Venn (PV), Geof Wilkey (GW), Dave Blake (DB), Bill Davidge (BD), Janet Platten (JP)

**Apologies:** Mark Pullin (MP), Kevin Goss (KG), Mike Worley (MW), James Smith (JaS), Tony Lidbury (TL), Garry Clarke (GC)

Item			Action
1	Welcome	<p>Change of chair - following the recent local elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May the Regulatory Committee has seen many changes including a new chair in <b>(KC)</b>. Therefore <b>(SP)</b> nominated <b>(KC)</b> to be the new chair of the TLG, <b>(KC)</b> accepted.</p> <p><b>(KC)</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:35hrs</p>	
2	Previous minutes and matters arising	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes and subsequent actions were discussed. All agreed minutes and were signed off as a true and accurate reflection.</p> <p><b>(JP)</b> and <b>(DB)</b> stated that there had been an improvement in service from the Broad Lane Garage in particular from Mary Jones who is the Transport Assistant for the Garage. A question was raised about making appointments available other times of the day (currently 11:00am, 11:30am and 12:00pm), <b>(KB)</b> to raise with the garage.</p> <p><b>(KB)</b> advised the summer taxi newsletter had been produced by Keith Jones and would be placed in the Licensing office reception, e-mailed out and available on the website.</p>	<p><b>KB</b></p> <p><b>KB</b></p>
3	Regulatory Committee update – 8 new Members	<p><b>(KB)</b> stated that from the elections held on 7<sup>th</sup> May the Regulatory Committee had seen a few changes in addition to <b>(KC)</b> as the new chair. 8 new Members are now part of the Committee and can be viewed at the following link, alongside future meeting dates and agendas:</p> <p><a href="http://council.southglos.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=403">http://council.southglos.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=403</a></p>	

		<a href="#">&amp;Year=0</a>	
4	Six monthly review of Hackney Carriage Table of Tariff and Fares commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2015 – update from Regulatory Committee meeting on 25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>(KB)</b> stated the proposal was a no increase in fares based on the current ‘fuel prices only’ methodology. Public consultation will take place for the proposal of no increase to the Table of Tariffs and Fares being advertised in the Bristol Post and at South Gloucestershire One Stop Shops. The Regulatory Committee will consider all comments received at the next meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> September.	
5	Taxi Policy review (2015-20) – update from the previous TLG meeting following legal advice for the requirement of a WAV feasibility study in line with the Equality Act 2010	<p><b>(KB)</b> stated that legal advice had been requested and given on the requirements for a feasibility study, the responses from the forthcoming questionnaires will be presented back to the Regulatory Committee, as the Equalities Impact Assessment, to determine the final draft policy before commencement of a 12 week public consultation.</p> <p><b>(KB)</b> had been made aware of a WAV electric vehicle, as at the following link:</p> <p><a href="http://www.brotherwood.com/wheelchair-accessible-vehicles/electric-wheelchair-accessible-vehicle-nissan-env-200/">http://www.brotherwood.com/wheelchair-accessible-vehicles/electric-wheelchair-accessible-vehicle-nissan-env-200/</a></p> <p>Concern was also raised that any current licensed driver who is registered disabled may not be able to comply with a revised Taxi Policy stating WAV requirements. This may be viewed as discrimination; a suggestion was to insert a question on the Driver’s Licence application form to clarify if an applicant is disabled.</p>	
6	Low Emission Vehicles – update of West of England bid – OLEV Taxi Scheme feasibility study	<p><b>(KB)</b> stated that SGC and surrounding local authorities had put together a bid for Government (OLEV) money to carry out a feasibility study for the West of England in relation to having a local infrastructure of charging points for low emission vehicles used as licensed vehicles. The successful cities were due to be announced as at the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles</a></p>	
7	Deregulation Act 2015 – update of DfT Best Practice Guidance to reflect the changes brought about by the Hackney Carriage &	<p><b>(KB)</b> stated that the DfT had released information on 2<sup>nd</sup> June as follows:</p> <p><i>‘DfT have today indicated, in response to enquiries from NALEO and other Trades’ Groups members, that they are considering whether Best Practice Guidance should be updated to reflect the changes brought about by the “Taxi</i></p>	

	Private Hire clauses	<i>and Private Hire” clauses of the Deregulation Act 2015. DfT also state that other matters in the guidance may need revision and that interested parties will be consulted prior to any new guidance being issued.’</i>	
8	DVLA Group 2 Medical - insulin dependent diabetes at group 2 that a yearly medical is required	<p><b>(KB)</b> confirmed that insulin medication dependent diabetes at Group 2 standard requires a yearly medical, as the current Taxi Policy requires a DVLA Group 2 Standard medical to be completed then GP’s must be aware of this when determining an applicant to be fit or unit to drive a licensed vehicle. The updated guidance for medical practitioners as the following:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457961/aagv1.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457961/aagv1.pdf</a></p> <p>A debate followed with all contributing thoughts on this matter; is this insulin, tablet or both affected by this? <b>(KB)</b> was asked to get opinion from Diabetes UK, SGC Legal Services and consult with a local practice such as the one at Horton.</p>	<b>KB</b>
9	Convictions, cautions and fixed penalty notices (including driving offences) – reminder that must be reported to the Licensing Authority at the earliest opportunity	<p><b>(KB)</b> reminded all current licensed drivers, and all potential applicants, to declare all cautions, convictions and inform this Licensing Authority of any impending court proceedings as this can be discussed between all parties before determining any further action. This is as the Driver Licence conditions and stated in policy; if the Licensing Authority is made aware of such matters after a long period of time from issue then this will be viewed as withholding information and may result in strong formal action.</p> <p>All drivers are also reminded to advise the Integrated Transport Unit of such matters arising.</p>	
10	Uber – national update	<b>(KB)</b> stated that the current national media attention around Uber was interesting but as with all applications in South Gloucestershire, each is taken on its own merit and if an application criteria is met as legislation and policy then this will be granted.	
11	Taxi licensing enforcement update	<b>(KB)</b> stated that no particular enforcement operations have taken place in the recent months, and everyday intelligence continues to be recorded and followed up by Licensing Officers. There will be a joint partnership operation with the Police in the near future to carry out random checks, and enforce where necessary. Licensed vehicles from other districts would also be looked at and reported to the respective Licensing Authority.	

12	Any other business	<p><b>(DB)</b> raised an issue about Dial-a-ride, what is their purpose and objective and that the Council should look at their contract. They are now doing school contracts and is this classed as private hire work?</p> <p><b>(SS)</b> stated that the community transport organisations should be looked at as they receive grants from the Area Forums.</p> <p><b>(KB)</b> advised that this was last looked at in 2009 to the legality of the work being carried out, it was clarified at that time what Transport Act exemption was being used and was all documented. <b>(KB)</b> suggested that perhaps an independent auditor should look at the operations of community transport organisations and establish if they are working on a commercial basis?</p> <p><b>(JC)</b> questioned if the Moravian Road rank and road could be extended as currently being abused by other drivers, this is not being enforced by Parking Services.</p> <p><b>(DB)</b> asked if signage could be displayed to make rail travellers aware of the taxi rank on Station Road. <b>(KB)</b> stated that this was raised before the consultation took place but as it is Railways Land will have to approach the Station management team, perhaps on a public safety perspective.</p>	<p><b>KB</b></p>
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**Next Meeting:** 10:30hrs, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 @ Ridgewood Community Association (Room 3), 244 Station Road, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 4AF