



MEETING: HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE JOINT WORKING GROUP
DATE: Tuesday 5th March, 2019
TIME: 10.00 am
VENUE: Committee Room - Bootle Town Hall, Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 7AE

South Sefton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association
Richard Jarman

North West Taxi Association
Trevor Jones

North Sefton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association
Tony Crabtree

Southport Station Hackney Carriage Association
John Murrison
Frank McLachlan

Central Cabs
Alan Campbell

Berry Street Garage
Joe Johnson
Denise Bennett

Sefton Fleet Association
Thomas Robinson

All Whites
Adrian Hughes

Aintree Garages
Mike Denning

Delta Merseyside Ltd
Paul McLaughlin
Gary Beesley

Sefton Private Hire Fleet Operators Association
Mark Sanders

Uber
James Kelly

Antrec

Frank West

Advisor

Paula Hodson

Officers

Mark Toohey (Chair), Principal Officer

Mike Foulkes, Senior Taxi Licensing Officer

Terry Wood, Environmental Health & Licensing Manager

MEETING OFFICER: Liz Risley - liz.risley@sefton.gov.uk

<p>If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.</p>
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AGENDA

Item No.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2018.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

4. **Upfront Fee for New Driver Applications**

Item raised by the Chair.

To discuss the proposed introduction of an upfront application fee for new driver applications only. The Council can offer up to 27 appointments per day for new applicants - the current attendance rate for these appointments is in the region of 75%.

The committee report that went to the Licensing & Regulatory Committee on 7th January considered the introduction of an upfront fee for new driver applications but deferred any decision until the meeting to be held on Monday 18th March 2019.

The cost of a 3-year driver licence for 2019/20 will be £73.

Trade representatives are therefore asked for their views on the following;

- a. Do they support the introduction of an upfront fee which will be offset against the total cost of a new licence? (new applicants only)
- b. The suggested fee is around £25 - £30. Again, trade rep views are welcomed on the suggested level of the upfront fee.

The views from the trade will be incorporated into a report to be considered by the committee on the 18th March 2019.

Note - suggested fees for knowledge tests have been suspended until further notice.

5. **Task and Finish Group Report/DfT Draft Statutory Guidance**

Item raised by the Chair.

The Task & Finish group (TFG) on Taxi Licensing produced a report on 24th September 2018 which contained 34 recommendations for local authorities covering a whole range of topics such as safety, accessibility, training, DBS checks and cross border hiring. Following on from this, the Government has now produced its response to that report along with draft statutory guidance for licensing authorities which will be introduced using the Policing and Crime Act 2017. The guidance will not be mandatory but the Minister (Nusrat Ghani) has indicated that she expects all licensing authorities to adopt the guidance unless there is a compelling reason for not doing so. The draft guidance is subject to a consultation period until 22nd April 2019.

The original TFG report can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tax-i-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-recommendations-for-a-safer-and-more-robust-system>

The Government response to the TFG report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tax-i-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-government-response-to-independent-report>

The draft statutory guidance and further information on the consultation process can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tax-i-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-protecting-users>

Any views, questions or comments concerning the draft statutory guidance are welcomed.

6. **Outcomes from the Spokespersons meeting on 29th January 2019**

Item raised by the Chair.

To discuss any issues arising from the meeting held on 29th January 2019.

7. **Ongoing Work Streams**

Item raised by the Chair.

To update the group on the following work streams;

- a. Testing Station Review (Item also requested by Joe Johnson)
- b. Unmet demand survey (Item also requested by Richard Jarman and Trevor Jones)
- c. Group constitution
- d. LCR harmonisation

8. **Enforcement Statistics**

Item raised by the Chair.

To update the group on recent work carried out by the Taxi Licensing Unit.

9. **Private Hire Operator Tariffs**

Item raised by Paul McLaughlin.

“To discuss availability of online tariffs from PH Operators”

Item raised by Richard Jarman.

“Visibility of tariffs in PH vehicles.”

10. **One Stop Shops**

Item raised by Joe Johnson.

“To discuss costs & staffing levels within the One Stop Shops.”

11. **Current Government Consultations**

Item raised by Richard Jarman.

12. **Driver Drug Testing**

Item raised by Trevor Jones.

“Due to the growing increase in Merseyside licenced private hire/hackney drivers being found positive for drug driving, the necessity for a drugs test to be included in all licence applications, new and relicensing.”

13. **Driver Licence Renewals**

Item raised by Richard Jarman.

“Notice of driver licence renewals and lead times”

14. **Property Left in Vehicles**

Item raised by Trevor Jones.

“The return of luggage or shopping to the passenger that the driver has put in his boot, and who is legally responsible once the driver places the items in the boot of his car away from the passenger.”

15. **Private Hire Operator Fees**

Item raised by Trevor Jones.

“Provide a breakdown of Private hire operator licence fees. Snapshots over the last 10 years to where they stand now.”

16. **Date of next meeting**

4th June 2019 – Southport Town Hall

17. **Any Other Business**