

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE JOINT WORKING GROUP

MEETING HELD AT THE SOUTHPORT TOWN HALL
ON TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2015

PRESENT:

Member/Association:

Southport Station Taxi Association

Barry Howard

South Sefton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association

Richard Jarman

Ian Stanton

Delta

Paul McLaughlin

Sefton Private Hire Fleet Operators Association

Mark Sanders

Officers

Mark Toohey (Chair), Principal Trading Standards Officer

Mike Foulkes, Senior Taxi Licensing Officer

MEETING OFFICER: Colin Auty

Email: colin.auty@sefton.gov.uk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mike Denning – Aintree Garage

Joe Johnson – Berry Street Garage

Joseph Bridson – North West Taxi Association

MINUTES

Agreed as a true record

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None raised.

HANDBOOK

Handbook amendments that have already been considered and agreed were endorsed by all members present.

Matters outstanding were then discussed in turn and are listed below.

1 – Statement on hours worked by drivers to be finalised and included. It will be a brief statement on hours worked in General. Paul to supply copy of the wording Delta use to the Chair

2 – Additional licensed driver disqualification following on from a DVLA ban in relation to ‘totting up’ offences. Members and the chair agreed that the licensed driver ban should be the same length as the DVLA and will run consecutively after the DVLA ban has expired.

3 – Current list of fees may be included with the handbook. Due to fees becoming out of date this may change to just a link to the website for the current fees.

4 – Reference/link to the council website for all up to date information is to be included.

5 – Updated list of ALL testing stations to be included.

6 – Updated list of all trade association to be included, this is to include websites and contact email addresses – not telephone numbers. A discussion was then held about how non attending group members should be dealt with. PM suggested a new group constitution on membership should be considered. No objections to this idea were made.

7 – Details where to locate VRQ providers are to be included

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE JOINT WORKING GROUP-
TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2015

8 – Guide/Assistance dogs. The requirement for drivers to carry these dogs was discussed. This requirement can only be set aside should a driver hold a valid medical exemption certificate. New annex will be in the handbook.

9 – PM suggested that a link to the latest version of the handbook should be included, as well as private hire companies and trade associations providing links to the handbook on their websites.

METERS

PM queries the use of GPS devices being used to calculate prices in PHV's instead of simply a distance with a price being calculated via a rate card. The Chair explained that taxi meters that calculate price require pattern approval and verification, but GPS devices that merely record distance travelled may not. PM stated that he would like SMBC officers to conduct test purchasing in order to establish compliance in the Borough.

ENFORCEMENT

No significant update since the last meeting – full update to be provided in June meeting

UBER

The group considered RJ's submission. This matter will be considered in due course if/when Uber have a presence within Sefton.

CROSS BORDER ENFORCEMENT

All group members voiced opinion that they wished for all taxi licensing enforcement staff on Merseyside to be standardised across the County. This is so that any enforcement taken within Merseyside is both uniform and consistent. The Chair advised that Sefton are ready to standardise procedures across the county but that the process has stalled due to other reasons. PM requested that Sefton push all 5 authorities to discuss the matter between them.

In light of the imminent deregulation bill, PM has requested an urgent update on cross border enforcement. He then stated that he believed that there should be national standards for taxi licensing enforcement as there is a national standard for drivers.

CROSS BORDER LIASIONS

Further to the statement on the agenda as provided by PM, he advised the group that Liverpool was gaining more drivers due to it being perceived to be easier to gain a Liverpool PHV drivers badge than a Sefton drivers

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE JOINT WORKING GROUP-
TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2015

badge. He also noted that convictions are treated differently in different authorities across Merseyside.

IS queried why the knowledge test cannot be a Merseyside wide knowledge test?

PM then re-iterated his stance as in agenda item 8, in that he is keen for all 5 Merseyside authorities to look at these issues urgently as more joined up thinking on taxi licensing is badly needed.

RJ then stated that in his opinion transport should not be a local authority issue and that taxi licensing would fit a lot better under the control of Merseytravel.

The Chair to update on cross border matters at the next meeting.

FULL LIVERY ON SALOON VEHICLES

Views of the members are that no further information has been provided on this issue and their previous stance is unchanged.

RJ reminded the group of the previous petition that was presented and agreed to L & R.

Chair to request further information on the matter.

GRAND NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangements provided to all members for circulation.

UPDATE ON ULEV

Information provided by John Smith of Merseytravel circulated to the group.

TUK TUKS

The proprietor in question holds a PSV license issued by the Traffic Commissioners. The Chair advised that enquiries have been conducted relating to allegations of activity in Sefton. The company has volunteered information about its workings and there has been no evidence of any illegal activity.

VRQ

The issue of all drivers requiring the VRQ by the close of 2015 is ongoing throughout the year. Delta are actively contacting all drivers who do not hold the qualification and offering their training services.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING *

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE JOINT WORKING GROUP-
TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2015

10:00am 2nd June 2015 at Bootle Town Hall.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PM queried the fact that Delta now has over 2000 vehicles registered on their system. Their Operators licence to his knowledge states 'up to 2,000 vehicles'. PM enquired as to how this can be amended and any cost implications.

Chair advised that he would clarify why the licence said that as the biggest current operator licence should say it is actually for 100 plus vehicles for £175 and not be limited to a maximum number.