

PRESTON TAXI TRADES LIAISON MEETING
13 June 2018

Present:

Riaz Qadeer – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Naveed Safdar – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Daren Ireland – RMT North West
Mike Thorpe – Licensing Manager, Preston City Council
Sonya Wheeler - Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council

Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the liaison meeting held on 11 April 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Enforcement – General

Those present discussed recent enforcement activity in particular the Butler Street and St Wilfird Street/Fox Street areas. **DI** referred to a meeting held with the Licensing Manager on 30 May 2018 which had agreed a way forward for the Council and trade to work together to improve hackney carriage services in Preston and in particular at the Railway Station when the Butler Street rank is not available. **MRT** shared in the disappointment of the trade of a decision made by the railway operators to replace the temporary waiting facility for two vehicles near the top of Butler Street with a coach collection point (Bay A).

Taxi Ranks

DI reported that the trade intended to ask Lancashire County Council Highways for their view on proposals for new taxi ranks at Christian Road (to feed the Railway Station), Theatre Street (3 spaces), Chapel Street (5 spaces) and the use of loading bays on Fishergate in the evenings.

MRT suggested adding the longstanding proposal for a 24 hour rank at Market Street which prompted a discussion about its use by market traders in the early of hours of Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Following discussion at the previous meeting **MRT** had discussed this matter with the Markets Manager who was unaware and actually surprised by these allegations since the Tuesday (and Thursday) car boots had moved from the Fish market to the area in front of the newly refurbished Covered market. **DI** circulated a video as evidence and agreed to send copies to the Licensing office.

Parking Enforcement

MRT reported that he had asked the Police to consider taking appropriate action to reduce the road safety issues in the city centre caused by private motor vehicles parked on taxi ranks but he had not received a reply prior to the meeting.

Vehicle Licences

DI asked the Council to consider increasing the period for vehicle licences from 6 months to 12 months. **SW** asked for clarification as to whether the

proposal intended for 6 monthly compliance tests to continue. **MRT** agreed to research both options and report back to the next meeting.

Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections

DJ reported that between April and May 2018 the Council inspected:-

- 11 hackney carriages – 4 stop notices and 7 vehicle defect notices.
- 2 private hire vehicles – 1 stop notice and 1 vehicle defect notice.

Enforcement – Penalty Points

DJ reported that between April and May 2018 16 penalty point notices were issued in respect of:

- 10 hackney carriage drivers for breach of byelaws or conditions
- 1 private hire driver for undeclared motoring offence
- 4 hackney carriage drivers for undeclared motoring offences
- 1 private hire vehicle proprietor for breach of condition

Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee

At its May meeting the Committee refused two applications for private hire driver licences, one in respect of an applicant found cheating during his knowledge test. The Committee also suspended two private hire driver licences for a period of 4 weeks following their review under the Penalty Points Scheme. Both drivers had failed to report motoring offences on two separate occasions. At its June meeting the Committee granted an application for a private hire driver's licence from a former driver who had had his licence revoked many years ago. It decided to take no action in respect of a hackney carriage driver who had reported a criminal offence and then suspended two hackney carriage driver licences for a period of 4 weeks following their review under the Penalty Points Scheme.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15 August 2018 in Room C at the Town Hall.