

**PRESTON TAXI TRADES LIAISON MEETING
14 August 2019**

Present:

Daren Ireland – RMT North West
Riaz Qadeer – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Mohammed Ayub - RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Dave Lowe - Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council
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 12 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Taxi Ranks

MRT reported that the Authority had received 9 objections to the proposed hackney carriage stand in Chapel Street, 1 objection to the proposal for Theatre Street and none for the proposal to make the Market Street hackney carriage stand 24 hour. The grounds for the objections were outlined and copies provided to DI for consideration. If it is the wish of the trade representative to proceed with the proposals for Chapel Street and Theatre Street then the objections together with representations from the trade will have to be considered by the Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee.

MRT agreed to seek the consent of Lancashire County Council to make the Market Street a 24 hour hackney carriage stand.

Parking Enforcement

In June and July 2019 LCC issued 8 fixed penalty notices to owners of vehicles parked on city centre taxi ranks during weekend evening enforcement operations.

Clean Air

A discussion was held regarding measures to reduce air pollution in cities and DI requested that the trade should be included or kept informed of any future initiatives undertaken by the Authority that would impact on the hackney carriage trade.

Enforcement – General

MRT reported that his team has received some extra staffing resource in the form of a Trainee Licensing Technician post which will have the effect of increasing proactive enforcement work, particular out of hours. He reminded the representatives that his team regulated other activities in addition to the taxi and private hire trades – alcohol and entertainment, gambling and scrap metal, charitable collections, second-hand goods dealers, leaflet distributors and sex establishments.

Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections

DL reported that between June and July 2019 the Council inspected:-

- 22 hackney carriages – 13 IPN/Stop notices and 9 DPN/vehicle defect notices.
- 7 private hire vehicles – 5 IPN/Stop notices and 2 vehicle defect notices.

Enforcement – Penalty Points

DL reported that between June and July 2019 a total of 12 penalty point notices were issued in respect of:

- 1 hackney driver for breach of byelaws
- 3 private hire drivers driver for breaches of policy
- 1 private hire driver for breach of condition
- 1 private hire vehicle proprietor for breach of condition
- 5 private hire drivers not reporting motoring offences
- 1 hackney carriage proprietor for breach of condition

Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee

At its July 2019 meeting an application for a private hire driver's licence was adjourned in order to seek further information for another Authority where the applicant had had a licence revoked. The Committee also issued a written warning to a private hire operator who had been convicted of an offence.

At its August 2019 meeting the Committee considered two applications for private hire driver licences and determined that both applications should be allowed to proceed.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 October 2019 in Room C at the Town Hall commencing at 2pm.