

**Notes of the Trade Liaison Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March 2018,10.00am**  
**Large Conference Room, Manor House**

**Present:**

Mumtaz Mohammed (MM) - BCC, Chair  
Emma Rohomon (ER) – BCC, Acting Head of Licensing  
Shawn Woodcock (SW) – BCC, Licensing  
Amjid Afzal (AA) – A K Executive Cars  
Lee Denny (LD) – E-Passenger  
Shammi Raichura (SR) – Uber  
Mohammed Rashid (MR) – Birmingham & Solihull Taxi Alliance & Elite Training  
Shakil Bashir (SB) – Birmingham & Solihull Taxi Alliance & Elite Training  
Mazaffar Khan (MK) – Birmingham & Solihull Taxi Alliance & Elite Training  
Mohammed Farooq (MF) – RMT  
Giles Bridge (GB) – A2Z for 247 Cars  
Zaffar Iqbal (ZI) – 247 Cars  
David Clayfield (DC) – BCC, Transportation  
Amy Walker (AW) – Midland Metro Alliance  
Martin Walker (MW) – Star Cars  
David Wilson (DW) – A2Z for Star Cars  
A Arshad (AAr) – Private Hire Drivers Forum  
Tanvir Salim (TS) – Private Hire Drivers Forum  
Rebecca Wilson (RW) - Notes

**Apologies:**

Imran Akram (IA) - TOA  
Manawar Hussain (MH) – TOA  
Rory McClaren (RM) – Elite Radio Cars  
Clive Thompson (CT) – BCC, Transportation  
Chris Arundel (CA) – BCC, Transportation  
Chris Neville (CN) – BCC, Acting Director – Regulation & Enforcement

MM reported that CN is now Acting Director – Regulation & Enforcement. ER is now acting up as Head of Licensing and will be attending future meetings in this capacity.

ER apologised for lateness for minutes going out, and stated they would be sent out earlier going forward.

**2. Notes and Matters Arising from Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

2.1 Page 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph MR felt it was agreed a standard letter was to be sent out to drivers that have LPG vehicles. RW sought clarification from CN, who

confirmed that this was agreed at the Age Policy meeting, although it was stated drivers should write to Licensing at this meeting.

2.2 Minutes agreed as an accurate record.

### Actions

2.3 Agreed each action to be given a reference number. **ACTION: RW**

2.4 Action Tracker updated.

## **3. Transportation**

### Update on Tram

3.1 AW gave update:

- Pick up points on Broad Street will be removed today.
- All vehicles can use Centenary Square bus lane between 10pm and 5am during weekends.
- Bishopsgate Street works will be finishing tomorrow.
- Gas Street (junction of Broad Street) will be closed between 10am and 8pm on 8<sup>th</sup> April
- Granville Street (junction of Broad Street) will be closed between 10am and 8pm on 15<sup>th</sup> April

3.2 Following a query from AA, it was confirmed traffic works were due to finish next year. A review will be undertaken to see what traffic will be allowed.

3.3 MW asked when would it be permissible for PH to enter a bus lane? He referred to a scenario in Tyburn Road where taxis were having to enter the bus lane to look for a house and were being caught by cameras. DC replied that in such situations, the driver would need to refer back to the enforcement company to appeal the decision.

3.4 AA referred to the ongoing issues with traffic around Holloway Head. DC replied that there is a plan to make Brunel Street two-way with a link to Paradise Circus; this would ease congestion in the area.

3.5 DC confirmed that this would be his last meeting and he was retiring. Members thanked DC for his contribution to the meetings.

#### 4. Specific Issues

##### Rank Protocol (SW)

- 4.1 Following an issue between two HC drivers, SW reminded drivers that they should move to the front of a rank. Passengers trying to get into cabs at the back of the rank should be sent to the front of the rank. He requested this advice was circulated to drivers.
- 4.2 MR suggested this request could be added to the Newsletter. **ACTION: ER**
- 4.3 ZI asked what is Licensing's policy on this? SW replied we do not have a specific policy on rank protocol. It is a by-law that cabs should proceed to the front of the rank. A passenger is entitled to get into a cab anywhere they like within the rank.
- 4.4 LD added that an issue is that a lot of cabs don't have p-card machines, meaning passengers have to find a cash point machine.
- 4.5 MF stated he hoped drivers would follow the "gentleman's rules" procedure.

##### Update on Dual Licences (CA)

- 4.6 ER stated that CN had written a report; however there is confusion on what it is the trade are asking for. The LPPC Chair had been approached by people saying what they want to happen, but this was not necessarily what was requested at the trade meeting.
- 4.7 MR replied the reps were in favour of a dual licence that allows HC to trade as PH. How and when this could be issued (ie upon renewal or when HC expires) would be up to Licensing.
- 4.8 DW commented that there is no such thing in law as a dual licence. He saw no difficulty in BCC allowing fit and proper drivers to have PH licence, and to grant this with the same expiry date of HC licence. Other LAs do this. He suggested fees could be worked on dependent how long the licence is required.
- 4.9 MR stated that Licensing make the renewal of PH and HC licences too complicated, and that we should look at how other LAs do it.
- 4.10 MF commented we should look at the cheapest way of doing it.
- 4.11 ER confirmed the report will be going to June LPPC.

## Update on LPG conversion & CAZ (ER)

- 4.12 ER will circulate note on current status. She also provided a link (which will be added to website and newsletter) to a list of LPG accredited garages.
- 4.13 MR said he had requested a list of approved retro-fit devices. ER replied there are none at present.
- 4.14 DW stated he was able to provide a response to this. He had learnt from a colleague that there will be no retro-fit product approved. The cost of the test of such products would be £20k per vehicle, plus there is a 2 ½ year wait for tests for London Cabs. The cost and the length of time would therefore mean a retro-fit product will not be an economically viable.
- 4.15 ER said that this was the first she'd heard of this. However, drivers shouldn't pin their hopes on a retro-fit product and should consider alternatives.
- 4.16 LD stated he was the only Rep who shunned a retro-fit device when it was demonstrated at a past meeting. He felt consideration should be given to extending the deadline for removal of Euro 6 vehicle to 2025.
- 4.17 MR raised that Sylvia Broadly was going to write to drivers of LPG converted vehicles to confirm the conversion had been done (for insurance purposes). She was also going to address issues with garage where LPG conversions were carried out. ER had received a briefing note from Sylvia on the second point, and will circulate it with the notes. **ACTION: ER**
- 4.18 It was suggested that policy may need to be revisited in view of the retro-fit issue.
- 4.19 ER had an update from CN re vehicles driving in from outside of Birmingham and will circulate with the notes. **ACTION: ER**
- 4.20 AA suggested something could be added to newsletter about this.  
**ACTION: ER**
- 4.21 MW queried how will BCC enforce this if they don't have registration details for taxis from outside of Birmingham? ER replied it would be no different to the way we enforce bus lanes.
- 4.22 SW added that the requirement for certain engine sizes had been removed from the LPPC engine size report submitted earlier this month.

## Vehicle Signage Update (CA)

4.23 ER stated CA is preparing the report. Any suggestions will be put to the working group and then submitted to LPPC.

4.24 MR asked would feedback from the trade consultation be included in the report? ER replied yes. The biggest issue from drivers is that they don't want semi-permanent signs. However this is required so that vehicles cannot be anonymised.

## Newsletter – suggestions for items to be included

4.25 Suggestions below:

- A note that there can no longer be an additional charge for credit and debit card payments (MW)
- Penalty points for drivers (MR)
- An incentive for drivers to provide email address eg raffle / prize draw (DW)
- A front page article that states there will be no funding for retro-fitted products – can this be done ASAP (LD)

4.26 ER advised that there will various other information including upcoming consultations and how to find them, guidance on website, updates on LPG and engine sizes, rank protocol, information on drivers not urinating up peoples' fences, not sounding horn during certain time period etc.

4.27 MR stated the Trade were asking for the newsletter to be sent out every six months. ER replied that sending out hard copies is very expensive. Therefore we are aiming to get people familiar with website where the newsletter will be available online.

4.28 MW suggested updating the licensing application form to include a box for driver's email address. Drivers can then be sent newsletter and any updates.

## **5. Enforcement Statistics (ER)**

5.1 Statistics for November 2017 – January 2018 previously circulated with the agenda. At last stop check, 70% compliance rate for HC and 37% for PH.

## 6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 MR asked can service issues be added to the agenda for future meetings (this is in TOR). **ACTION: ER**
- 6.2 ER apologised for the delay in papers going out. She will circulate any responses to outstanding actions in advance of meetings; if we can't provide a response we will say. Anything sent to one Rep will be sent to all Reps for completeness.. If a Rep would like to add anything to agenda, they should let us know in advance.
- 6.3 ZI asked why cannot renewals be made simpler– why everything on paper? SW replied we don't have facility to do this online.
- 6.4 A query was raised can the value of the LPG converted vehicle be added to the letter to drivers being prepared by Sylvia Broadley. ER felt it would not be possible to put a value on the vehicle, but it could include the cost of the conversion and also that the road tax will reduce. She will speak to Sylvia.  
**ACTION: ER**
- 6.5 MR asked was there any news on out of town vehicles? ER replied that the legislation not changed. Transport for London had produced a report and sent it to the Transport Minister – she will send a link to this out. She stated we are still having meetings with other LAs on this issue. **ACTION: ER**
- 6.6 MR asked why do we have these meetings? SW replied they are for us to exchange information, and for us to provide information you can pass onto the trade. We could stop having the meetings if the Reps wanted this. MM added if people feel the meetings are of no benefit, they can chose not to attend. It is not compulsory. ER stated the purpose of the meetings is in the TOR.
- 6.7 MR wanted to know why there is 6 month waiting list for the knowledge test. ER replied we are trying different ways to do this in a shorter period of time.
- 6.8 Referring to breakdown on licence fees, MR asked had a different method of showing this been done ie through salaries, rent etc? ER replied that this is very complicated and what she had provided was the best she could for it to make any sense. DW added that this is very simple compared to other LAs.
- 6.9 MR queried why do drivers have to take a driving test as part of the knowledge test? ER replied we would expect them to be of a certain standard, and many fail it.

6.10 Following query from AA regarding Uber licence extension, it was confirmed officers have delegated authority to renew. Any matters of concern, they would not have authority to approve and would need to be go to Sub Committee.

6.11 AA highlighted that the Licensing office number is either engaged or not being answered. SW stated there are times when the phone lines are busier than others. He suggested AA provide specific times and try leaving it a while before dialling again. MW suggested emailing Licensing as someone will call you straight back.

7. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 10am - LCR Manor House