

Notes of the Trade Liaison Meeting
1st August 2018,10.00am
Large Conference Room, Manor House

Present:

Mumtaz Mohammed (MM) - BCC, Chair
Emma Rohomon (ER) – BCC, Acting Head of Licensing
Chris Arundel (CA) – BCC, Licensing
Abdul Batin (AB) - UPHD
Mohammed Farooq (MF) - RMT
Mohammed Rashid (MR) – BASTA and Elite
Habib Rehman (HR) – BASTA and Elite
Shakil Bashir (SB) – BASTA and Elite
Iain Aiken (IA) – BCC, Highways
Amjid Afzal (AA) – A K Executive Cars
Kieran Harte (KH) – Uber
Gift Hamisi (GH) – BCC
Amy Walker (AW) – Midland Metro Alliance
Sylvia Broadley (SBr) – BCC
Jas Chahal (JH) – BCC
Philip Williams (PW) – BCC, ATRINS
Sajeda Mahmud (SM) – BCC, Infrastructure Delivery
David Wilson (DW) – Star Cars (later)
Martin Walker (MW) – Star Cars (later)
Vusumuzi Moyo (VM) – RMT
David Harris (DH) – BCC, Transport Policy (later)
Rebecca Wilson (RW) – Notes (from point 4.0)

Apologies:

Lee Denny (LD)
David Humpherson (DH)

2. CAZ Consultation

2.1 SBr gave an update on the latest position. Questions / feedback raised by Reps will be included in business case to Government. SBr encouraged reps to get drivers to attend upcoming consultation sessions and / or complete consultation online. Their feedback will be added to the business case put to Government.

3. Notes and Matters Arising from Meeting on 30th May 2018

3.1 The notes were agreed as a true reflection.

- 3.2 Action Tracker amended.
- 3.3 ER apologised that the newsletter has not gone out yet; this is due to an issue with the portal. She will do her utmost to get newsletter by close of play today. If not, she will circulate as a letter by the end of the week. MW stated he now has emails for all his drivers, and suggested this could be emailed to them.
- 3.4 MR brought up previous issue of arrangements for taxis at Edgbaston Cricket Ground during big games. ER replied that we have not invited to any recent meetings, hence not able to discuss this with them. However, it is largely down to the event organiser to put in arrangements for taxis. Trade Reps highlighted that issues were with WMP / BCC allowing road closures.

4. Transportation

Moor Street bus improvement measures

- 4.1 Nobody here to give an update. To be carried forward to next meeting.

Taxi Rank – Birmingham Road Wylde Green (IA)

- 4.2 IA reported that a petition has been received from local traders and residents requesting the removal of this taxi rank. He has been informed that it is very rarely used. He is therefore looking to remove the rank and replace it with standard parking spaces.
- 4.3 Discussion ensued; general consensus was that if a taxi rank is removed, it should be replaced by another. MR stated that TOA, who were not present at the meeting, might use the rank. It was agreed an email be sent to all Reps to ask for suggestions for an alternative location for the rank. **ACTION: IA**

Snow Hill / Colmore Row Public Realm Scheme (SM)

- 4.4 SM circulated plans to Reps and talked them through the proposals.
- 4.5 Proposals include removing taxi ranks in Colmore Row and relocating them to Livery Street to incorporate bus stops. SM stated this was discussed with Reps two years ago. The Reps disputed this, stating that they had not been consulted. They felt the whole trade would have rejected this proposal as Colmore Row is a main pick-up point.

- 4.6 It was agreed that the SM will send RW details of the consultation, which she will then circulate to Reps. The Reps will then be able to provide feedback on the scheme by 10th August. **ACTION: SM / RW**
- 4.7 ER stated that if this is agreed, the signage issue is very important. She said that this is good in that it would provide more rank provision, but not good if nobody knows the ranks are there. SM confirmed the signage is being looked at, including totems pointing to car parks and taxi ranks.

Southside Public Realm Scheme (JC & PW)

- 4.8 JC circulated plan and talked members through it. PW gave update on scheme and how it will impact on taxis. He asked Reps for their feedback on how can improve things for taxi trade.
- 4.9 MW stated access to A38 north, which currently incurs a mile and a half detour needs consideration, also the increase in CO2 emissions etc. He feels the scheme is pushing taxis away from Hippodrome, making access difficult for those with disabilities.
- 4.10 The consultation for the scheme is likely to start October and will be open for 4 weeks. Reps were encouraged to participate in the consultation.

Paradise circus closure – AW

- 4.11 AW circulated paper on this. Paradise circus will need to be closed to accommodate works to connect metro from Broad St to Centenary Square. Works are due to start in September 2018 and will last a year. The key message is that although Paradise Circus will be close, the underpass beneath it will be open at all times. Metro are working with third parties to decide emergency routes in and out of City in the event of an accident. Transport Cabinet Member Waseem Zaffar has announced that on Friday and Saturday nights, taxis will be able to use Centenary Square to exit off Broad St onto Paradise Circus between 10pm and 5am.

5. Specific Issues

- 5.1 Nothing to report.

6. Service Issues

- 6.1 Nothing to report.

7. Enforcement Statistics

7.1 Statistics for March – April 2018 were circulated prior to meeting.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 AA requested an explanation of why PH are not being allowed in bus lanes. DH will circulate information that Transport Cabinet member has seen and based his decision on. This will include details of engagement carried out.

ACTION: DH

8.2 The issue of out-of-town vehicles coming into Birmingham was raised. ER confirmed The Leader of BCC and Birmingham MPs have been lobbying - and will continue to lobby - Department of Transport to ask them to reconsider.

8.4 MR asked about consultation dates. ER replied they will be going on the website, will be emailed out and a notice put in reception.

8.5 MR requested an update on dual licences. CA confirmed that a report is going to Committee in September. If agreed, we will implement this as quickly as we can.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

26th September 2018, 10am - LCR Manor House (Cancelled)