

Licensing Liaison Panel

Meeting notes for 12th January 2015

Chorley Council, Town Hall

Attendance: Chorley Council: Cllr Marion Lowe- Chair
 Cllr Tony Gee- Vice Chair
 Stephen Culleton
 Lesley Miller

Licensing Trade:

Charles Oakes (Hackney Drivers Association)
 Shakail Ahmed – Hackney
 Shamail Ahmed – Private Hire
 Lynn Brakewell- Kes Cars
 James Stewart- Kes Cars
 Phil Cooper- Coopers Taxis
 Lynne Cooper- Coopers Taxis
 Yaqoob Illahi- Star cars
 Tristan Finley- Finley's
 David Finley- Finley's
 H Mala- Hackney
 U Ahmed- Private Hire
 Z Essa- - Hackney
 Andrew Price- Yellow Cabs
 Asaed Musa- Hackney

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Actions
1	Apologies- None	
2	Minutes from Meeting on 29 September 2014	Agreed
3	Matters Arising- None	
4	Licensed Premises Update- None	
5	Gambling Act- no items. SC advised that Gambling and Licensing Policy Statements to be revised this year	
6	Police Items- None	
7	Taxi Items- Conference Seating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO raised the matter that our PHV conditions do not permit conference seating but that LCC allow this and prefer this configuration in certain vehicles for their contracts. • The matter of other types of seating in newer vehicles was also raised by members of the group. • It was agreed that this could be investigated further and the particular conditions could be given consideration for review, but officers advised that this could not be done in time for the next LPS Committee due to other more urgent agenda items and no time scale could be promised at this stage. • CO suggested that there was further discussion on this at the next scheduled LLP. 	. LM to investigate matter

	<p>Process review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR requested verbal delivery of the proposals, as this would assist in their understanding of what is being suggested • LM read through each of the 13 proposals summarised in the consultation letter and provided a brief explanation of the background to each proposal: the details of discussions are noted below each proposal. <p>a) <i>Remove the change of vehicle process and in future a new 6 month Vehicle Licence will be issued for any vehicle presented for licensing.</i></p> <p>Overall, there was agreement about making the licence period 6 months to avoid confusion and errors in failing to renew. LM was asked to include potential options for refunds or payment extensions within the report for the consideration of members.</p> <p>b) <i>To reinstate the expiry dated Vehicle Licence Plates. Requiring expired licence Plates to be returned and a new plate issued at the time of each Vehicle Licence renewal.</i></p> <p>CO said that he would reject this on the grounds of costs to his members and that other authorities are removing these dates. He also questioned thinking behind this because the public do not look at the plates. YI thought doors signs were more important to the public than the plate. He also commented that because there was no deposit on the current plates this is why drivers do not return them. PC raised concern over the time taken to print the plates and possible service issues relating to delays if new plates had to be printed each renewal. Cllr G- said that dates allowed monitoring authorities to quickly check the validity of a taxi and reduce the likelihood of rogue taxi drivers and ghost taxis. SC confirmed that when expiry dates were present on plates that the trade themselves reported out of date plates and assisting in policing the matter. LC suggested that date on the windscreen card was sufficient.</p> <p>c) <i>To align the DBS disclosure with the expiry date of the PHD & HCD licence and therefore require that new DBS disclosure application is made within 3 months prior to the Licence renewal date.</i></p> <p>CO agreed with changes and happy for these to be aligned LM explained that transitional arrangements have been outlined in the report to allow for interim declarations for existing drivers. Shak questioned waiting for renewals. LM explained that as long as applied for in a timely fashion then there would be no delay in renewal.</p> <p>d) <i>To allow the proprietor to present the vehicle for the Taxi Test for a Vehicle Licence Renewal up to 14 days before the expiry of the</i></p>	<p>LM to check with other LA's</p>
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	<p>6 weeks of the medical.</p> <p><i>h) To retain the requirement for annual medicals after the age of 65 and also align this with the driver licence expiry, (a driver on reaching 65 or over will be required to align his driver's licence to the anniversary of his birthday and provide a satisfactory Group II medical on that anniversary thereafter to maintain the entitlement to drive).</i></p> <p>No comments relating to this proposal.</p> <p><i>i) To allow a previously licensed PH/HC driver a PH / HC drivers licence to be granted without the need for the driver to re-sit the knowledge test, as long as any previously held Chorley Council HC / PH driver licence has expired within 5 years of the new application.</i></p> <p>CO thought 5 years too long, it should be 3.</p> <p><i>j) To distinguish between HC/PH Driver Licences where the Driver has additional qualifications for and meets the Disabled Access Vehicle requirements.</i></p> <p>SC explained the purpose is to show the public and on our system those with the extra training for driving a Disabled Access Vehicle (DAV)- provide some obvious recognition for this additional qualification CO in favour, thinks it should be mandatory for new HCD applicants, anyone having an HCD badge should have the enhanced DSA certificate and be able to drive a DAV. And an option for existing drivers to take the enhanced test. SC & CO agreed on this point. If this is put into policy then it will have links to insurance. Shak asked if there would be dispensation for experience- but it was agreed that the existing DAVs are Hackney carriages with drivers that already have the enhanced DSA, but new DAV drivers would need to meet this standard.</p> <p><i>k) To cease sending Driver and Vehicle Renewal Notices, including insurance, DBS and medical reminders, providing renewal information at the time of the issue of the Licence.</i></p> <p>CO disagrees with this, but concedes that not receiving a reminder is no excuse in court. Can the costs of sending renewals be clarified in the report. The trade overall want this to continue. LM advised that there would be continuation within the transitional period, and then the renewal information would be in a pack with the new / renewed licence.</p> <p><i>l) To make Private Hire Operators licences valid for a period of 5 years and reflect the updated fees and charges, where there is no variation to the fees for different numbers of vehicles.</i></p> <p>CO wanted to know what the proposals were for interim declarations. LM to consider, but the onus should be on the operator to notify of changes in order to keep paperwork to a minimum.</p>	<p>LM to include option in the report</p> <p>SC to check DSA requirements and LM to put options in the report</p> <p>LM to update costs info for report</p>
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	<p>LR commented that a lot changes in 5 yrs and could put off smaller operators due to the perceived financial commitment of a 5 ys operators licence, so this could be a barrier to new smaller operators and allow the very large companies to muscle in on Chorley business. CO advised that this recommendation has come from central government and Chorley are just following those recommendations. LM advised that cost of the operator licence is based on the issue and therefore whether it was for 1, 3 or 5 years the cost of issue would be the same, so better value for money if it is a 5yr licence. DF commented that the number of pages in the renewal was unnecessary.</p> <p><i>m) To give officers delegated authority to grant ordinary or Approved DAV HC / PH & / Co –terminus (Dual) HC & PH Driver licences on application for the grant or renewal when satisfied that all the requirements of the application process have been met.</i></p> <p>SC explained that this is where there are mid-term changes to a licence, such as a driver taking the enhances DSA so that he can drive a DAV. Currently this change would have to go to committee for approval. CO had no issues except wanted information on the names of the officers. SC clarified it would be with the designation, probably the director. Shak asked if a driver can ask for a refusal to be taken to committee SC confirmed that a refusal would be sent to committee.</p> <p>Shak asked for clarification on the policy changes applicable to driver licences, number 16, can we confirm if this is 'may' or 'will' be referred to committee. SC to review wording and ensure this is clarified before the committee meeting.</p>	<p>LM reviewing forms and will go back to this one.</p> <p>SC to clarify</p>
8	<p>CO requested that a further meeting of the group be convened before the close of the consultation and a opportunity to review the draft report.</p> <p>Cllr G- agreed extra-ordinary meeting would be appropriate in early Feb.</p> <p>It was agreed that an extra-ordinary meeting would take place after close of the consultation to review comments received and discuss draft of report for Licensing and Public Safety Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Lowe- asked LM to arrange a date and collate consultation responses to proposals in advance.</p> <p>Proposed date of next meeting- Extra-ordinary meeting Monday 9 February 10.00 Committee Room 1, Town Hall</p>	<p>LM to arrange and contact group</p>