

Minutes of the Taxi & Private Hire Forum  
Thursday 9 January 2020

Attending

Graham Wren – Senior Licensing Officer  
Claire Humphreys – Licensing Officer  
Barry Hussey  
Steve Eckton  
Marouane El Mamouni  
Akeel Khan

Apologies

John Fairey  
Imran Khan

Graham welcomed the new members, Akeel Khan and Marouane El Mamouni.

Claire reminded both Akeel and Marouane that although they were linked to Wessex, they are representatives for all operators and drivers, not just those who work for Wessex.

Taxi Project Phase 2

- Barry Hussey informed the group that many drivers were very concerned at the idea of a two tone livery due to security concerns when leaving vehicles unattended.
- Akeel Khan said that if all the vehicles had CCTV, we wouldn't need a livery change, but Graham reminded him this was about **Public Safety** and the licensed vehicles standing out, therefore, helping the general public identify Winchester City Council licensed vehicles. Graham pointed out to the group that these are just proposals for phase 2 of the taxi project; the consultation will go to out to all drivers and the general public for them all to make any representations.
- Claire reminded the group that they will have the opportunity to put their thoughts to the Licensing and Regulations Committee when the consultation has been completed. Steve Eckton suggested to the group that perhaps it would be best if just one of them from the forum spoke and put forward any comments from drivers that would not feel comfortable speaking out themselves. Graham advised they could do this or anyone can make representations individually if they wish
- Graham informed the group that the consultation is prepared and ready to go out, and will include questions covering a wide area regarding vehicles.

## Taxi Project Phase 1

### *Wheelchair Assessments*

- Claire re-iterated to the group of the requirement for all drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles to take a Wheelchair Assessment with the Blue Lamp Trust. The group were reminded that the assessment must be taken by the **30 June 2020**.
- Akeel asked if a driver has the BTEC qualification, which included a wheelchair assessment as one of the modules for the certificate, would they have to take it again?
- It was agreed that if such certificates were in the possession of WAV drivers Licensing would individually review each certificate and inform the driver if it was acceptable.

### *Operator Ancillary Staff*

- Claire informed the group of the deadline for staff details etc and the need for a basic DBS to be received from Operators who employ ancillary staff by the **28<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

### *Student Safety Scheme*

- Following an update from Akeel on the Student Safety Scheme set up between the University of Winchester and Wessex, Graham said the scheme doesn't appear to be running as it was intended and that it would need to be decided by the Council as to whether they would continue to endorse the scheme.

### *Knowledge Test*

- The group supplied the most popular locations tourists ask to be taken to that so these can be include in the Knowledge Test.

### *Any Other Business*

- Akeel Khan asked if we were able to refuse an Uber application as other Local Authorities have. Graham advised that Uber can apply for an Operators Licence just like anyone else.
- Barry Hussey spoke on behalf of himself and a lot of drivers that they felt that we should implement a fare increase. Graham advised that he would pass this onto the licensing management.