

**NOTE OF A TAXI LICENSING TASK AND FINISH GROUP MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRESENT –

Councillor F. Ahmad – In the Chair

Councillors

M. Strickland

Trade Representatives

Mr. M. Akram

Mr. M. Nazir

Mr. Z Ahmed

Mr. C. Oakes

Officers present

Neil Watson

Emma Barton

Jackie Allen

Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services

Legal Services Manager

Taxi Licensing Manager



1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

The meeting was Chaired by the Chair of the Taxi Licensing Committee.

2. PROPOSALS FROM THE TRADE

The Task and Finish Group had been set up to look at improvements to taxi safety following a request from the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

A meeting was held on 11th July where the Trade was asked to submit their proposals for improving taxi safety for the Taxi Licensing Committee to consider.

Proposals were submitted to the Taxi Licensing Committee on 11th September, 2023 and there was a broad agreement amongst Members that the proposals submitted by the trade were not sufficient to improve the significant failure rates of taxis. It was agreed that there be one more final meeting of the Task and finish Group to which the Trade be invited and the outcome of that be reported back to an extraordinary meeting of the Taxi Licensing Committee.

The Chair introduced the meeting and asked for the Trades proposals.

Mr Ahmed asked how many members of the trade should be present at the meeting as he was informed that it was 3 members of the Trade only and there was 4 present. The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services stated that as it was a working group there was no limit. Mr Ahmed asked that it be recorded in the minutes that that Mr Oakes should not be present.

The trade was still of the opinion that private hire operators should not be responsible for drivers and vehicle proprietors not looking after their vehicles, due to the vast number of vehicles some operators had running with them. They did, however, send out regular messages asking them to check their vehicles, plates etc every day.

Discussions took place regarding the introduction of an App to record daily vehicle checks. The trade was still opposed to this as some drivers were not technically minded and would struggle using it. It was explained that the App was very simple to use, and drivers would be given training where necessary. They were asked to trial the App and they agreed to ask their drivers if they would be willing to trial it. The Trade put forward a proposal that they would agree to paper daily vehicle checks as opposed to the App. however, Mr Oakes was in favour of the App.

Most of the Trade agreed to 3 tests a year, one of which to include an MOT, however, some felt that this was not fair on drivers who did look after their vehicles and should only be for the ones who were not maintaining theirs. Other proposals/issues put forward were for the penalty points scheme to be reviewed as it was felt that the points were not in proportion to the severity of the breach; waiting time when asked to attend for spot checks; drivers to be more severely reprimanded, for example plying for hire and they felt some of our garages were not stringent enough when carrying out taxi tests.

AGREED

That the proposals put forward by the Trade be reported back to the Taxi Licensing Committee on 9th October 2023.

CHAIRMAN _____