

**TAXI FORUM**  
**Notes of Meeting held on 7 November 2016**

**Present: Robert Simpson, Julie Wallace, Emma Crout, Colin Jones, Tony Davis, Michael Skellern, Robert Stanley, Ahrsham Ditta, Makmood Hussain, Patricia Thorpe, Asim Ozden, Hamad Ahmed, J Butler, Dave Kaminski, Mark Hawkins, Harry Jones, Ben Sackey, Paul Bates, Bill Armstrong, Ghulam Raza, Arjinder Rakkar, MD Julhash Uddin, Richard Phillips, Ian Crowe**

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p><b>Brief Notes taken at Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Robert Simpson gave overview of Agenda and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Highlighted changes that would be brought about by HSE. Line to be opened 2026.</b></li> <li>- <b>Building of Western Bypass road to ease traffic and extension of Hydrant way.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Review of Licensing Conditions at SBC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Implementation of new licensing officer</b></li> <li>- <b>Looking at setting up Working Groups with the Drivers to troubleshoot changes in Conditions</b></li> <li>- <b>RS explained procedure of review and outlined licensing conditions will be finally decided at full council.</b></li> <li>- <b>All current conditions are being assessed</b></li> <li>- <b>Requested for drivers to volunteer for the Working Groups</b></li> <li>- <b>CSE and Safeguarding will be redefined and enforcement procedures developed.</b></li> <li>- <b>Safeguarding Courses are being including and these will be accepted by the School Transport Agency. Refresher courses to be conducted every 3 years.</b></li> <li>- <b>CSE signage may be required in all vehicles going forward.</b></li> <li>- <b>Police/Responsible Bodies have decided CSE Conditions.</b></li> <li>- <b>All training courses/qualifications to be discussed at Working Groups so it will be open to the trade and Licensing would like any suggestions for what may be required.</b></li> <li>- <b>Looking to have similar conditions for all Local Authorities.</b></li> <li>- <i>Concerns raised by the group on previous CSE/Safeguarding training, particularly the stringency of the course.</i></li> <li>- <b>RS advised the course will be more of a presentation or awareness training.</b></li> </ul>	

		ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>DBS Sign up service will be included in new conditions which will also SBC/SCC to access DBS following permission from drivers, cheaper for applicant and removes the need to submit a form and certificate</b></li> <li>- <i>Concerns raised by Group on how much of the admin staff's capacity is strictly taxi's and how much time is taken up by processing/customer service for taxis.</i></li> <li>- <b>RS advised very high percentage of admin time is spent on taxi licensing.</b></li> <li>- <i>Concerns raised on CSE/Safeguarding on Stone Taxi Rank</i></li> <li>- <b>JW had a meeting with Stoke Council last week to tackle Stone Taxi Rank in partnership</b></li> <li>- <b>JW asked that any information that drivers could supply about vehicles illegally plying for hire would be helpful</b></li> <li>- <b>Licensing to target illegal drivers and operators</b></li> <li>- <b>Stoke confirmed that following prosecution driver/operators will be taken to committee, licences subsequently may be revoked</b></li> <li>- <b>Partnerships with Newcastle are underway.</b></li> <li>- <i>Concerns raised regarding SBC drivers also having Stoke Plates</i></li> <li>- <b>Deregulation Act is causing issues on borders and allocation of jobs.</b></li> <li>- <i>Concerns raising regarding Fees and Charges</i></li> <li>- <b>A breakdown of charges has been requested.</b></li> <li>- <b>Previous breakdowns have been provided, the final of which will be presented to representative shortly</b></li> <li>- <b>There has been no increase in 3 years</b></li> <li>- <i>Concerns raised for amount of application which can be accepted</i></li> <li>- <b>Legislation advised that can be restricted however council is not currently looking to do so due to increase in economic regeneration in town</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Taxi Ranks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Outline presented on how ranks were processed and agreed.</b></li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Highways put forward suggestions for discussion</b></li> <li>- <b>Bridge Street to be discussed with the Police</b></li> <li>- <b>Extensions of current ranks not viable</b></li> <li>- <b>Bus Stop opposite Couture perhaps after hours.</b></li> <li>- <b>Suggestion made for Waterfront. RS advised will make request</b></li> <li>- <b>Outline of Notice Boards and use for display of fees for HC</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Chauffeur Vehicles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>JW/RS advised that we will be looking at licensing chauffeur vehicles and we will be working in Partnership with Cannock to implement this.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>New enforcement powers are coming into place – at point of contravention of condition we will be apply to carry out immediate suspension.</b></li> <li>- <b>A table of penalties will be issued to all</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Issues with Taxi Marshalls – inappropriate language used against drivers – JW to investigate</i></li> <li>- <i>Personal Use of Vehicles</i></li> <li>- <i>MOT compliance testing too expensive</i></li> <li>- <b>Will be discussed at working groups</b></li> <li>- <b>RS raised suggestion of Road Safety test brought in on application</b></li> <li>- <i>Driver Safety – would like more support in providing evidence against aggressive/troubling customers</i></li> <li>- <b>RS advised police issue</b></li> <li>- <i>Operators Licence and allocation of jobs – subcontracting of fairs</i></li> <li>- <b>New conditions will require all subcontractors to present this information to the customer</b></li> <li>- <b>All operators are required to record their jobs which is enforced through mystery shoppers.</b></li> <li>- <i>Guide Dogs Exemption – only medical exemption allowed</i></li> <li>- <i>Overcharging</i></li> <li>- <b>Mystery Shoppers to enforce</b></li> <li>- <i>Electro-charging points</i></li> </ul>	<p>RS</p> <p>RS</p> <p>JW</p>

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>JW to look into sustainability of the service</b></li> <li>- <i>Heart Attack Procedure – will be put into conditions</i></li> <li>- <b>Taxi Meetings/Actions/Items/Working Groups to be communicated to the Group.</b></li> <li>- <b>New time of 12.00pm for Meetings</b></li> </ul>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>