

Appendix 1

Consultation extract from the minutes of the Taxi Trade meeting held on 5th June 2007, 10.00am at Hardmans Mill

Present:

Councillor Duncan Ruddick - Leader of the Rossendale Borough Council
Tracy Brzozowski - Licensing Manager (RBC)
Daniel Dobson - Licensing Unit (RBC)
Derek Hamill - Licensing Unit (RBC)
Syed Naqui - Lancashire Constabulary – Hate Crime & Diversity Unit
Anne Kenyon - Haslingden Trade Association
Glenn Bulcock - Rossendale Trade Association
Manir - Rossendale Trade Association
PC Martin Gallagher - Lancashire Constabulary
Susan Chadwick - RBC (Minutes)

Apologies:

Linda Fisher - Head of Service – Planning, Legal & Democratic Services (RBC)
Sergeant Chris Counsell - Lancashire Constabulary
James Back - Rossendale Trade Association

Also present:

Rosanna Mannion - Licensing Unit (RBC)

Late Opening request from the Taxi Trade

- 1 TB advised that this matter had been investigated and introduced RM to the group and advised all parties of the working hours. TB further advised that in order to have a full time member of staff available for the taxi trade would require a review of the current Licence fees in order to fund a further member of staff.
- 2 TB advised that during a 12 week period, up to 1st June 2007, 12 appointments had failed to turn up without explanation or contact. Thirteen vehicles had been presented for the Rossendale Test with very obvious flaws resulting in test failure, resulting in a total of 25 invalid appointments. TB advised that these appointments could have been provided to other people and thus, had clogged the appointment system.
- 3 TB enquired of GB as to what he felt constituted an emergency appointment. GB advised that taxi business, covering a wide spectrum, constituted an emergency. A discussion regarding whether buying a new vehicle and wishing to have it licensed for the weekend constituted an emergency took place.

- 4 AK enquired as to what constituted a reasonable cancellation and a short discussion on this took place.
- 5 M advised that he had rung DD for an appointment and was unable to get one. M then advised that he had seen DD, later that day, removing the plates off a vehicle in Bacup. M advised that he could have had that appointment and that DD could have written to the vehicle proprietor requesting the return of the plates. M further queried the enforcement officer removing the plates from vehicles when they have failed an MOT. TB advised that this was the duty of the enforcement officers and remains a separate issue. This item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the group.
- 6 TB advised that improving the appointment system and working in a smarter manner was the key to improving the availability of staff for the taxi trade. TB suggested a re-booking fee for failed appointments and stressed that it would not be a means to make money as it would serve only to act as a deterrent. TB suggested that a fee of £35 would be a suitable deterrent.
- 7 AK queried whether a reserve list would be put in place. This was discussed and agreed to be a good idea.
- 8 GB advised that the representatives were happy with the structure of the re-booking fee but were not satisfied with the fee, which they believe to be excessive. GB advised that he believed that there would be trouble with the charge.

Resolved:

- 1 A re-booking fee of £35 will be presented to the relevant committee's of the Council for determination.
- 2 The taxi trade representative's objections to the fee being set at £35 are duly noted.
- 3 Enforcement duties to be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the group.
- 4 A reserve list will be implemented for the appointments system.