

Drivers and Operators Forum

Chair: Kathleen Rose

Correspondence: Regulatory Section (Licensing), Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 5HZ

Minutes: Meeting – 15th August 2018 at Riverside House

		Action
1.	<p>ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES.</p> <p>Present: Kathleen Rose, Rachael Russell, Tayyibah Daud, Paul Tunney, Ahmed Rafiq, Phil Court, Majid Ali, Simon Brook, Afsin Ozeker, Chand Mubarak.</p> <p>Apologies: PCSO Mansell, Amrit Sidhu, Pritpal Bains</p>	
2.	<p>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</p> <p>Previous minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>UBER UPDATE</p> <p>KR stated WDC have received various complaints in relation to Uber vehicles parking in taxi ranks and bus stops etc.. However, when such complaints are forwarded to the appropriate licensing authority no response is received.</p> <p>KR advised that if we receive such complaints and attempt to intervene this leaves the investigation up to us. This has resource and cost implications for us, and therefore, to licence holders. The burden of investigation should fall to the licence issuing authority. Therefore, the best way to address such issues is for drivers who witness such behaviour, to make their complaints directly to the issuing licensing authority.</p> <p>KR addressed members concerns that Uber have not applied for an operators licence within WDC. However, she reminded members that the Deregulation Act 2015 means that there is nothing illegal about vehicles licensed by other local councils operating within our district if they are working for Uber and are pre-booked.</p>	
4.	<p>ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</p> <p>KR introduced Tayyibah Daud, our new Licencing Enforcement Officer. Tayyibah will be with us for a year covering RRs maternity leave.</p>	

	<p>KR reminded members that officers are regularly involved with day and night time enforcement activity. There are a number of on-going investigations at the moment and planned joint activities with Wolverhampton and other enforcement bodies. A normal service will be maintained.</p>	
5.	<p>KNOWLEDGE TEST UPDATE</p> <p>KR informed members that as of 1ST August the new format knowledge test was introduced. There are a few current applicants that will be allowed to use the old style test as they have prepared using that format.</p>	
6.	<p>VEHICLE AGE POLICY/EMISSIONS</p> <p>KR distributed a document outlining the current WDC vehicle profile and information from Defra about emissions standards.</p> <p>The document was intended as a starting point for discussion. The focus of the discussion needs to be around what WDC can do to improve air quality within the district.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that KR would email the information to members together with some key questions to consider.</p>	
7.	<p>DATABASE OF REVOCATIONS AND REFUSALS</p> <p>KR advised members that there is a new national database for recording revocations and refusals of HC & PH drivers. We at WDC will be using it for both checking on new and existing drivers and sharing information about our drivers.</p> <p>Members recognised that benefit to public safety and were supportive of its use.</p>	
8.	<p>PROPOSED CHANGES TO DVLA MANDATE PROCESS</p> <p>KR spoke to members about the delays we are experiencing with the DVLA mandate checking service we use and the problems that this is causing for renewing drivers. There is now a free service provided by the DVLA via the Gov.uk website we are considering adopting this new method of checking driving records in future.</p> <p>Members were supportive of the change as it would represent a reduction in the overall costs to drivers without impacting on passenger safety.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>KR distributed a draft newsletter for comment and asked members if they felt that the introduction of a newsletter for licence holders</p>	

	<p>might be welcomed.</p> <p>Members felt that a newsletter would be of use and welcomed the introduction.</p> <p>The newsletters will be available on the website from now on.</p>	
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