

**WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY/DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**AT A MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP HELD AT  
WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**Present:** Councillor S Khan (Chair)

Councillors C Greaves	-	WYPTA
K Rhodes	-	WYPTA
G Wainwright	-	WYPTA
C Iredale	-	Kirklees MC

<b>Officers in attendance:</b>	P Mills	-	Bradford MC
	D Bragg	-	Calderdale MBC
	M Kenyon	-	Calderdale MBC
	P Swallow	-	Kirklees MC
	V Podgorski	-	Kirklees MC
	M Johnson	-	Leeds CC
	C Hemingway	-	Wakefield MDC
	P Roberts	-	Metro
	R Chaplin	-	WYPTA

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Walker (PTA) and Councillor L Russell (Leeds).

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Liaison Group held on 5 March 2007 be approved.

**4. SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE**

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on activities to promote safety and security for taxi drivers and passengers in West Yorkshire.

Members were advised that a safety event had been held at Elland Road, Leeds which had received over 200 visitors. It was noted that there had been widespread advertising to all local authorities but some members expressed concern that they had not been made aware of the event. It was noted that similar events were being organised for the other Districts and it was requested that notification of all future events be sent to members of the Liaison Group.

Members were advised that an Officers Co-ordination Group had been established by Metro with West Yorkshire Taxi Licensing Officers and regular meetings were attended by West Yorkshire Police, Leeds Crime Reduction Partnership and Go Skills. The meetings enabled the exchange of good practice on a regular basis and the Co-ordination Group had overseen the dissemination of information material across the West Yorkshire Districts. Metro had been advised that the Department of Transport (DfT) had commissioned consultants to carry out research into personal security issues for taxi drivers. A meeting had been held with the consultants to highlight issues previously raised by the Taxi Liaison Group. It was expected that the outcome would be a series of recommendations on how the DfT could support a package of measures to overcome personal security issues through the delivery of effective solutions.

It was reported that an approach to the Crime Reduction Partnership had resulted in a pilot in-cab CCTV scheme being appraised for Leeds. A pilot scheme covering the deployment of 50-70 cameras, based on a 50:50 cost share with drivers, was being developed. CCTV specifications had been circulated to all districts as a guide to drivers who wished to install CCTV independently. It was noted that the funding of in-cab CCTV remained a major issue and members requested that a detailed report be prepared for the next meeting of the Liaison Group, setting out the approach made by each District Council to promote the installation of in-cab CCTV.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a report be prepared on the District approaches to in-cab CCTV for the next meeting of the Liaison Group.

#### **5. TAXIS AND THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating the Group on progress with measures to support and manage taxi use as part of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

Members were advised that District Councils had submitted their approved policies with regard to the review and proposals relating to taxi licence quotas in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) which was submitted to the DfT in March 2006. It was reported that the Districts would review the policy as and when required

and the Liaison Group noted the main points relating to the current position of each District which were set out in the submitted report.

The Liaison Group were given an overview of some of the initiatives and developments relating to the taxis in each district which supported the LTP and other wider objectives. The use of bus stops/shelters at strategic city centre locations at night time by hackney carriages was discussed and members asked for clarification of the terms of agreement for their use.

It was reported that following their resolution to allow the A629 bus lanes to be used by hackney carriages and PHVs, Kirklees Council were proposing to open up further bus lanes for use by hackney carriages and PHVs. The Taxi Liaison Group and the Highways and Transport Planning Liaison Group had previously submitted objections to the original trial and further objections had also been submitted by bus operators, the Police and other special interest groups. It was agreed that an appropriate response be submitted to Kirklees MC, reiterating the previous objections to the use of bus lanes by hackney carriages and PHVs.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That an appropriate response be submitted to Kirklees reiterating previous objections to the use of bus lanes by taxis (hackney carriages and private hire vehicles).