

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY/ DISTRICT COUNCILS

AT A MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present:	Councillor	C Smith (Chair)		
	Councillors	K Rhodes	-	WYPTA
		D Schofield	-	WYPTA
		T Swift	-	WYPTA
		L Russell	-	Leeds

Officers in Attendance:

D Dumbleton	-	Traffic Commissioner's office (item 4 only)
A Capitiano	-	Traffic Commissioner's office (item 4 only)
P Mills	-	Bradford MC
A Mellor	-	Bradford MC
D Holliday	-	Kirklees MC
M Johnson	-	Leeds CC
R Gillam	-	Wakefield MDC
N Holt	-	Metro
P Roberts	-	Metro
R Chaplin	-	WYPTA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Cummings (Wakefield) and R Taylor (Calderdale) and A Pickerill (Calderdale).

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 6 March 2006 be approved.

4. TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER ISSUES

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on a number of issues which were discussed with Mr Dumbleton and Ms Capitiano from the Traffic Commissioner's office who attended the meeting.

Members had previously raised concerns regarding the use of 'stretched limousines' to carry passengers without regulation and 'O' licence holders using four seater vehicles as PHVs, without checks on drivers or vehicles. Other issues raised included the specific use of taxis on day nursery work and how to encourage the use of CCTV in taxis.

The Liaison Group expressed their concern regarding the vagueness of the legislation in relation to the licensing and use of limousines and requested further details in order that local authorities could lobby the Department for Transport (DfT) and MPs. Members thanked Mr Dumbleton and Ms Capatiano for attending the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to arrange a meeting between officers and the Traffic Commissioner's office to discuss the details of the legislation. The Chair of the Taxi Liaison Group would also be invited to attend and would report back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That Mr Dumbleton and Ms Capitiano be thanked for their attendance.
- (b) That a meeting be arranged with the Traffic Commissioner's office to discuss the issues in detail.
- (c) That the report be noted.

5. TAXI SAFETY PROMOTION EXHIBITION

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on feedback from the recent event for promoting the safety of taxi drivers and passengers.

It was noted that the event was well attended and commercial exhibitors had reported a high level of interest in their equipment with several orders being made. The Police, exhibitors and other safety organisations had circulated a wide variety of information at the event. Metro had received positive feedback from GoSkills and it was hoped that more effective working practices and partnerships would be developed in the future.

It was reported that there was a large selection of CCTV equipment available at varying prices and Metro would produce some literature with details of the different types of equipment and costs to circulate to taxi drivers.

Members congratulated Metro on organising the event and asked that their thanks be conveyed to the relevant staff.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. PENNINE TAXIBUS

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the Pennine Taxibus Rural Bus Challenge project.

It was reported that the taxibus scheme, which was introduced in 2005, was carrying an average of 70 passengers each weekday. The service had been extended in 2006 to include an evening tendered bus route between Slaithwaite, Marsden and Holmfirth. However the service had encountered operational problems due to the delay in recruiting new drivers because of the protracted Hackney Carriage licencing process and there had also been communication problems due to gaps in mobile telephone coverage.

It was noted that funding for the scheme was available until Summer 2007. The service was comparatively expensive and further passenger growth was needed before the service could be financially sustainable in the long term. A full evaluation would commence in 2007 to analyse the economics of the service alongside the social and environmental benefits it provided.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. TAXI BOX BOOKING SYSTEM

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the potential to utilise the bespoke 'Taxi Box' booking systems in West Yorkshire.

It was reported that the manufacturer had advised that no sales of the existing equipment were currently being taken as the equipment specification and functions were being revised. It was therefore agreed that officers would review the new equipment and report back to the Liaison Group when the system was relaunched.

RESOLVED - That developments relating to the 'Taxi Box' pre-booking system be reported to a future meeting.