

## **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 5 MARCH 2007**

**Present:**

Councillor	C Smith (Chair)		
Councillors	K Rhodes	-	WYPTA
	D Schofield	-	WYPTA
	R Taylor	-	Calderdale MBC
	L Russell	-	Leeds CC

#### **Officers in Attendance:**

A Pickerill	-	Calderdale MBC
M Kenyon	-	Calderdale MBC
D Holliday	-	Kirklees MC
D Broster	-	Leeds CC
P Roberts	-	Metro
R Chaplin	-	WYPTA

#### **8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Cummings (Wakefield) and M Walls (Bradford) and R Gillam (Wakefield MDC).

#### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **10. MINUTES**

Further to minute 4, Traffic Commissioner Issues, it was reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Traffic Commissioner to discuss the legislation in relation to the licensing and the use of limousines

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Liaison Group held on 11 September 2006 be approved.

#### **11. 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 circulated with copies of two reports which had been considered by Leeds City Council's Licensing and Regulatory Panel. These were regarding proposals for the policy, guidance and conditions for the fitting of driver safety cameras and safety shields to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. Members thanked Mr Broster for providing the information and considered that it would be beneficial for them to bring it to the attention of their own authorities.

It was reported that following the successful event in Summer 2006, a programme of 4 safety exhibitions was being developed which would be held at local venues during May/June 2007. Members commended the leaflet produced by Leeds City Council which was aimed at the taxi trade and it was noted that Leeds City Council officers had agreed that it could be used as a basis for other Districts to produce their own specific information if required.

Members had previously raised concerns regarding the use of 'stretched limousines' to carry passengers without regulation and it was noted that the Department for Transport were undertaking a review of the regulation and control of stretched limousines. A meeting was to be held with the Traffic Commissioner to discuss the review and the Group's concerns would be reported at that meeting.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **12. TAXI AND PRIVATE VEHICLE LICENSING – BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the Department for Transport's recently published report 'Taxi and Private Vehicle Licensing – Best Practice Guidance'.

Members were advised that the full Guidance addressed a number of issues and could be accessed via the DfT website. There was an opportunity to respond to the DfT and Metro would prepare a response on behalf of the Group expressing concern that the Guidance lacked detail in several areas including promoting the safety and security of drivers and passengers and the licensing of stretched limousines.

It was noted that the Guidance suggested a number of specific policy areas in which taxi licensing could support Local Transport Plans and members were asked to advise Metro of their Authority's policies. A report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Group which would also cover progress with taxi initiatives set out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Local Transport Plan. It was reported that the National Consumer Council had written to local authorities commenting that there should be no restriction on the number of hackney carriage licences issued. The Liaison Group believed that this contradicted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Local Transport Plan guidance and it was noted that Kirklees MC would advise the National Consumer Council that they believed it was the responsibility of each local authority to determine how many hackney carriage licences were issued.

**RESOLVED** -

(a) That the report be noted.

- (b)** That a response be prepared on behalf of the Group to highlight the omissions in the Guidance.
- (c)** That a report be prepared covering how different Authorities were supporting the Local Transport Plan with their taxi policy.