



Minutes of the meeting of the PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CONSULTATIVE PANEL held on MONDAY 13 MARCH 2006 at 1.30 PM

Present: Councillor Mabbutt (Chair)
Councillors Bristow and Dransfield

Also Present: Mr A Wilson (Driver), Mr C Bostic (Driver), Mr A Safdar (Driver) and Police Sergeant C Appleby (Thames Valley Police)

Officers: R Comitti (Commercial Manager), T Shulver (Senior Enforcement Officer), D Mullins (Enforcement Officer), R Carleton (Taxi Licensing Clerk) and G Lane (Committee Manager)

**Number of
Public Present:** 4

1.0 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Private Hire Vehicle Consultative Panel held on 6 December 2005 be approved as a correct record.

2.0 STAFFING LEVELS

The Panel received a report from the Senior Enforcement Officer, Terry Shulver, on staffing levels in the Taxi Enforcement Team.

The Panel heard that the Team was currently staffed by two permanent full-time enforcement officers and a potential new employee was awaiting Criminal Records Bureau clearance.

3.0 MONTHLY TESTS AND CHARGES

The Panel received a report from the Senior Enforcement Officer, Terry Shulver, on monthly tests and charges for Private Hire drivers.

The Panel heard that consideration of monthly tests and charges for Private Hire drivers were determined by the Licensing Committee.

4.0 CHILD SEATS IN PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

Representatives of the trade requested clarification regarding national plans for the introduction of child seats in taxi vehicles.

Councillors Bristow and Dransfield requested that Officers seek clarification on these plans from the appropriate Government bodies.

5.0 SAFETY CONCERNS ON LOCAL ROADS

Representatives of the trade expressed concern regarding the width of Silbury Boulevard, Campbell Park, as it did not allow overtaking.

Councillor Mabbutt stated that the area of Silbury Boulevard in question had been subject to a rigorous traffic assessment.

6.0 SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXI VEHICLES

The Panel received a report from the Senior Enforcement Officer, Terry Shulver, on a recent safety assessment of local taxi vehicles.

The Panel heard that an evening of random vehicle testing had been undertaken by Police and the Taxi Enforcement Team. A failure rate of 85% was reported with many vehicles failing to reach the required operational standards for lights, tyres and suspension.

Councillor Dransfield expressed concern that the failure rate was so high, but emphasised the need for such testing to be truly random.

Councillor Bristow emphasised the need for a point-ranking criteria for safety assessments in order to promote transparency.

The Commercial Manager stated that a single violation of terms and conditions resulted in a caution, but further offences would prompt a review of a drivers' license by the Licensing Committee.

7.0 PARKING AT CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES TRAIN STATION

Representatives of the trade requested clarification regarding plans for the revision of parking arrangements at the train station.

The Panel heard that consultation workshops were being held to consult with interested parties and that a survey was underway to assess whether local disabled bays were fit-for purpose.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM