

**CONSULTATION MEETING WITH SLOUGH PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER ASSOCIATION AND SLOUGH TAXI FEDERATION 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2018 AT LANDMARK PLACE, SLOUGH.**

**Attendees:**

Mick Sims – Licensing Manager

Ibrar Khan – Private Hire Driver Association

Iftikhar Ahmed – Private Hire Driver Association

Mohammed Farid – Private Hire Driver Association

Mohammed Fazil Khan – Private Hire Driver Association

Aftab Khan – Private Hire Driver Association

Sarfarz Khan – Slough Taxi Federation

Ranjit Ghotra – Slough Taxi Federation.

- All representatives confirmed that they had received a copy of the new consultation letter on revised low emission standards for PH and saloon HC vehicle.
- All representatives immediately voiced their extremely strong objections on the revised proposals because of the significant impact the proposals would have on current licence vehicles.
- The trade organisations stated that in addition to the current consultation being conducted by the Licensing Manager, they had also carried out their own consultation with their members and every person objected to the revised proposals.
- A discussion took place around the Slough Low Emission Strategy (LES) and the trade asked why they had not been formally consulted on that document.
- The Licensing manager outlined that the LES was subject to wide ranging public consultation and that proposals for low emission standards for HC and PH vehicles was being consulted on separately for inclusion in the final LES to be put before Cabinet In July for formal approval.
- The Licensing Manager was asked in his opinion how extensive would the impact be on the revised proposals. The response was that the current proposals would impact on every current licenced vehicle, as to his knowledge no current licence vehicle would be compliant with the revised proposals. However the statistics as previously requested and supplied to the Licensing Committee would be fully reviewed this week to establish how many current licence vehicles after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 would be non-compliant and

would need to be replaced together with those that would need to be replaced in any event because of the vehicle age policy. These statistics would be provided to all the trade representatives prior to the Licensing Committee meeting and be included in the final report for the Licensing Committee.

- All representatives voice concerns that licence holders would not be able to afford new ULEV vehicles, that the sizes of ULEV vehicles were not big enough to carry out normal private hire and taxi work, and even more so contract or corporate work as their clients would not want use these types of vehicles. Concerns were also expressed that if by any chance the revised proposals were approved the charging infrastructure for ULEV vehicles was not in place and would not in place by the implementation date.
- The Licensing Manager outlined that a full update on electric charging points and grants for installation on home charging points would be included in the final report.
- The licensing manager stressed several times that at this stage a further consultation is taking place on the revised proposals, hence the reason for the meeting and that as representatives of the PH and HC trade it is imperative to put their views, opinions and any alternative proposals formally in writing to be put before the Licensing Committee.
- All the representative present stated that they were under the impression that the original proposals put forward at the Licensing Committee in October 2017 would be put back before the Committee for further consideration taking into account the additional statistics and information discussed at the Committee meeting in October and that they would be in favour of the original proposals being approved subject to some minor and sensible changes. They could not understand why they had now been revised again.
- The Licensing manager again emphasised that if the trade representatives put alternative proposals forward they would be included in the final report for consideration by the Licensing Committee together with all other responses to the consultation.