



## **An Agreement on Working Together**

The Council and those who provide taxi and private hire services share the aim of providing A safe, reliable and efficient service to the people of Eastleigh.

The Council needs to remember that the trade needs to make a living, otherwise there would be no service at all.

And the trade needs to remember that if the Council did not make sure that vehicles are safe, and drivers are honest and fit people, the public would lose confidence and stop using taxis and private hire vehicles.

So it makes sense for the Council and those who drive, operate and own taxis and private hire vehicles to work together.

The law says that the Council is responsible for issuing licences and for making licence conditions. The elected Councillors on the Administration Committee set the rules. The staff who are employed in the Licensing Section of the Council's Legal Services Unit put them into practice.

The Council will:

1. invite owners, drivers and operators of taxi and private hire vehicles to comment on any proposals to change Council policy that relates to licence conditions, the trade, or the administration of licensing.
2. consider all comments received, though the Council must keep its legal duty to make up its own mind about what to do
3. arrange at least three meetings a year of a discussion forum for the trade and relevant Councillors and Council staff
4. circulate minutes to all reps and drivers
5. cover all reasonable costs of consultation

The trade (meaning both hackney and private hire) will:

1. Choose representatives of drivers, operators and owners of both taxis and private hire vehicles. The arrangements for doing so shall be proposed by each trade and must be agreed by the forum as a whole. (Where any administration is required, for example, to collect nominations or organise a ballot, the Licensing Section of the Council's Legal Services Unit will provide this. The Licensing Section will tell all licensees the results of the elections in writing.)
2. be responsible for collecting and collating views from their fellow licensed colleagues and reporting them accurately to the Council
3. help the Council get information out
4. recognise the Council's legal responsibilities and strategic aims in exercising their duties in accordance with the paramount consideration of public safety.

Everyone involved will respect each other's position and behave politely, professionally and constructively to find a joint solution (where possible) to any problems. Shouting and abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Notes on representation: when private hire vehicles started being represented at the forum for the first time in 2007, it was decided that the number of reps from the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle trades would be equal, at 4, with agreement that this could be reviewed if it was felt necessary.

## **The Election Process.**

The hackney carriage and private hire trade has four representatives each on the Licensing Transport Forum and to retain consistency, continuity and knowledge it is suggested that only four of the eight members (two Hackney Carriage and two Private Hire representatives) stand for election at any one time, so each member would serve at least two years.

Any licensed person wishing to be considered for a trade representative position is required to submit a written statement to the senior licensing officer detailing their full name and what they feel they have to offer to other trade members and the transport forum. Any statements received by the licensing team will be distributed to the trade for their consideration. The voting process will take place usually by submitting who you wish to vote for via email. After the 2 week voting period has passed, the licensing team will count all received votes and publish the results on the taxi noticeboard at [www.eastleigh.gov.uk/taxis](http://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/taxis).

All elected trade representatives are invited to attend the Licensed Transport Forum usually held three times a year at Eastleigh House, as well as any working groups set up for licensing matters.