

ECM PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE TRADE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

MINUTES – 14th September 2026 (13:30 – 15:00) ONLINE MS TEAMS MEETING

Cllr Robert Morrisey	(Chair) Executive Cabinet Member
Garry Parker (GP)	Assistant Director
Andrew Bolan (AB)	Head of Regulatory Services
Patricia Clyne (PC)	Licensing Manager
Lisa Timmins (LT)	Principal Licensing Officer
Benjamin Brookfield (BB)	GMP
Charles Oakes (CO)	BBHA

Apologies:

Mahmood Akhtar (MA)	BPHA
Yasif Khan (YK)	BPHA
Eddie Shah (ES)	Hackney Carriage Representative
Ellie McMaster (EM)	Senior Licensing Officer
Joe Fox (JF)	Highway Network Management Manager

1. Apologies – **LT**

As above.

2. Introductions – **All**

3. Minutes from last meeting - **All**

Minutes reviewed and agreed.

4. Trade Representative items – BPHA: **MA/YK**

- 4.1 Fees
- 4.2 UBER dynamic pricing
- 4.3 Livery
- 4.4 Spent Convictions
- 4.5 Train Station

Items to be carried over to next meeting when MA/YK can attend.

5. Trade Representative items – BBHA: **CO**.

CO had submitted no items but requested an update on Devolution. PC advised covering under agenda item 7.

6. Highways Update – **JF**

No update was provided as a highway officer was not in attendance.

7. Private Hire (PH) and Hackney Carriage (HC) updates

7.1 Devolution Act

7.2 Taxi & Private Hire Bill.

7.3 National Standards.

PC gave a short presentation covering all points above. A copy of the slides are attached.

8. Hackney Carriage (HC)

8.1 Alternative Vehicle request.

PC advised that the HC trade had requested the Council consider permitting alternative vehicle types to be licensed as HC, as Bolton currently operates a purpose-built fleet. PC is awaiting further details from the trade and will bring back to the group as it develops.

CO highlighted previous concerns regarding vehicles not being suitable for HC use and instances where vehicle modifications had not been completed to the required standard. CO emphasised that any proposals would need careful consideration.

8.2 Fare Increase.

PC advised that a request to increase HC fares had been received from a HC driver. This request was shared with all HC licence holders to gauge support. The closing date for responses was 11th September. Approximately 30 responses were received, with all but one respondent supporting the proposed increase. The Licensing Team will now collate the replies and begin to progress the request. However, due to the required governance processes, any increase would not be implemented before Christmas.

CO raised concerns regarding the continuing reduction in HC vehicle numbers and suggested that an increase in fares could potentially result in further loss of trade.

8.3 Rank at Hospital.

PC provided an update regarding a request from a HC driver who had contacted the Licensing Unit requesting a HC rank be installed at the Royal Bolton Hospital. The Licensing Team has contacted the hospital and is awaiting a response.

CO confirmed that the trade has sought a rank at the hospital for many years.

Update: On 22nd September, the hospital advised, *'At the moment with the large amount of capital works being undertaken, I don't believe we would have the area that could be a taxi rank within the grounds'*.

8.4 Uber sampling by HCD's.

PC explained that the HC trade had requested that UBER permit HC vehicles to operate through its booking platform. The Licensing Team made enquiries with UBER who advised that HC vehicles are not currently accepted onto the platform in Bolton. Uber confirmed that arrangements are in place in some licensing authorities, including Cheshire and London, but not within Bolton.

Action: Licensing to make further enquiries and feedback.

8.5 Cycle Lanes Bradshawgate and T/C.

PC advised that the Licensing Team had circulated information to trade representatives and licence holders regarding a drop-in session held at the library concerning the proposed cycle lane scheme on Bradshawgate. Attendance from the trade was limited to one driver.

Works within the town centre are expected to commence shortly, although works affecting the ranks on Bradshawgate are not anticipated until Summer 2027. Any further information received will be shared with the trade.

8.6 Bradshawgate general lighting is very poor.

PC advised that the HC trade had reported a faulty streetlight on Bradshawgate. The issue had been reported but would be chased as it remained unresolved.

Update: The Highways Street Care Team confirmed on 22nd September 2026 that the streetlight had been repaired.

9. AOB - **All**

PC confirmed the HC vehicle fund has been available for some time and that the PH vehicle fund is now live. Details of the application process will be shared with all those eligible.

RM advised that it was proposed to hold future meetings on a quarterly basis, although additional meetings could be arranged where necessary. Given the absence of several trade representatives, RM was happy to convene a further meeting sooner if required and would liaise with officers to identify the most suitable date.

CO suggested that future meetings alternate between in-person attendance and Microsoft Teams. RM confirmed that this proposal would be considered and noted that it was supported by those present.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC