

## **BLTOA SUBMISSION TO BLACKPOOL COUNCIL – FURTHER INFORMATION RE TAXI SHARING SCHEME**

We note and appreciate the Council decision to approve our request for taxi sharing in principle. This email is intended to provide greater detail as requested.

### **Timing**

Subject to approval from Blackpool Council, Taxi Sharing will only be available between the hours of 6:00AM and 7.00PM. This was the time duration previously authorised in the past.

### **Zones**

South Promenade Zone – Encompassing Pleasure Beach to Central Pier

Central Promenade Zone - Encompassing Central Pier to North Pier/North Station

North Promenade Zone - Encompassing North Pier to Norbreck Castle

Blackpool Zoo Zone – the area near to the Zoo including Stanley Park

### **Taxi Ranks**

Any taxi rank within the zones mentioned. All journeys to commence from an authorised taxi rank. Any passenger requesting the journey to be terminated along the recommended route may be allowed to do so at no additional cost provided that it is safe to do so.

### **Exclusive Hiring**

Drivers wishing to participate in taxi sharing must understand that this is subsidiary to a normal taxi journey. If a driver displaying taxi sharing signs is approached by a member of the public wishing to hire a metered taxi journey to a destination anywhere in Blackpool, this will take priority. However, this will not be the case if the shared taxi has already found shared hirers and is shortly intending to depart.

### **Finding Shared Hire Passengers**

Drivers may inform the public of shared hire availability subject to certain provisos. They may not:

- Approach or speak to members of the public who are stood in a queue for buses or trams.
- Persistently harass or tout for hiring's. It is suggested that the driver makes a brief statement that the vehicle is available for shared hire to certain destination(s). Only if people express an interest can further conversation then take place.
- Drivers who cause offence to the public or approach bus/tram queues will be subject to disciplinary action from the Council.

Having found one, two or three shared hire passengers a driver must then limit the time then spent seeking further passenger(s) to 3 minutes. The driver must then decide what action to take next, in consultation with the passengers. Always mindful of the requirements of the passengers the choices are:

- To take the shared hire with 1, 2 or 3 passengers at the shared hire rate.
- Decline the booking or politely ask the passengers if they are prepared to wait longer.
- If 1, 2 or 3 passengers state that they want to travel anyway on a metered fare that will then take place without further shared hire passengers being sought.

## Appendix 4(b)

- If a driver of 1,2 or 3 shared hire passengers wishes, a shared hire destination sign may be left in place, provided that it does not obstruct vision. Provided that it is safe to stop along the journey route, additional passengers may be added, subject also to the vehicle maximum seating capacity.

If a driver finds 4 passengers wanting to travel in a shared hire, he or she must not wait more than one minute before departing.

### **Signage**

Shared Hire Signage will be subject to approval by Council Licensing and will consist of a standard format and font.

### **AVAILABLE FOR SHARED HIRE TO NORBRECK CASTLE**

### **AVAILABLE FOR SHARED HIRE TO BLACKPOOL TOWER AND NORTH PIER/STATION**

### **AVAILABLE FOR SHARED HIRE TO PLEASURE BEACH**

### **AVAILABLE FOR SHARED HIRE TO BLACKPOOL ZOO**

Signs must be removed from display before any journey commences. The only exception to this is if the driver is seeking additional passengers to a shared destination. Signage must not block windscreen vision detrimentally.

### **Fares**

Journeys within the same Promenade Zone or, into the adjacent Promenade Zone £2 each.

Journeys South or Central Promenade Zone to Blackpool Zoo/Stanley Park and vice versa £2 each.

Journeys from North Promenade Zone to Blackpool Zoo/Stanley Park and vice versa £2.50 each.

Journeys from South to North or vice versa £2.50 each.

No fare shall be charged for children under the age of 5 years unless they occupy a separate seat which would otherwise have been taken by a fare paying passenger.

If drivers want to charge less, then of course they can do. These are maximum fares.

Drivers must understand that whilst these are the Shared Hire fare arrangements, **on no account can this be used to justify overcharging groups of people who wish to travel exclusively.** For instance, if a group of people approach a taxi that is not displaying a sign indicating shared hire availability, then the assumption must be that they simply want to hire a taxi using a metered fare.

## Appendix 4(b)

### **Payment**

Drivers of shared hire journeys must not seek payment until immediately prior to the commencement of the journey.

### **Tariff Sheets**

Taxi Sharing tariff sheets to be displayed in all participating cabs.

Subject to approval from the Council Licensing Service we intend advertising the Taxi Sharing Scheme on Licensed Hackney Vehicles. We will also be seeking Council consent to hand out a limited number of leaflets and of course paying the relevant license fee.

We will be grateful if Taxi Sharing can again be put to the PPC Sub-Committee please. If any of these proposals cause concern, we would be happy to discuss and consider making amendments.

BLTOA Committee

9 April 2019