

Licensing and Appeals Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2014

Present: Councillor Longsdon in the Chair

Councillors Collins, Hassan, Grimshaw, Ludford, Ollerhead, Stone and Teubler

LAP/14/08 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 17 February 2014 were submitted for consideration.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2014.

LAP/14/09 Hackney Carriage Fare Review – 2014/15

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was submitted which requested the Committee to consider the content of the report which is to be presented to the Executive, and to consider the key issues and make recommendations to the Executive.

The committee heard representations from Mr Donnelly, General Manager of MANTAX, Mr Choudhury a taxi driver who had responded to the consultation and Pat Connor from GMB Union. They were particularly concerned about the proposed reduction in the surcharge for the use of credit and debit cards in taxis.

Decision

To make the following recommendations to Executive:

- (a) that the barrier charges for Piccadilly and the Airport remain the same;
- (b) to remove the fuel surcharge;
- (c) to remove the surcharge for luggage; and
- (d) that the wording on the fare card for credit and debit cards to read –
'Some taxis accept credit or debit cards with a maximum surcharge of 5%

LAP/14/10 Taxi Licensing Update report

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee by the Principal Officer for Taxi Licensing which updated the Committee on matters with relevance to the taxi licensing functions. The two main issues were:

- (i) The Deregulation Bill 2013-14, and
- (ii) The Law Commission recommendations for wholesale reform of the law relating to Taxi and Private Hire Services.

The reform of the law relating to Taxi and Private Hire Services is far reaching and has implications for the future way in which Manchester, along with all other Local Authorities, deliver their taxi and private hire licensing services and members welcomed the advice to consider the formation of a working party to peruse the Law Commission report in detail and in particular to ascertain if current Council policies, guidance and conditions are consistent with the Law Commission recommendations and also be proactive in preparing a plan for the introduction of any new legislation.

Decision

1. To note the information in relation to the Deregulation Bill 2013-14 (HC Bill 191)
2. To further consider the formation of a working party to review the content of the Law Commissions Recommendations and draft Bill to
 - (i) Ascertain if current Manchester City Policies, Guidance and Conditions are consistent with the Law Commission recommendations.
 - (ii) Be proactive in preparing a plan for the introduction of any new legislation.

LAP/14/11 Compliance Quarterly Report: 1 January 2014 – 31 March 2014

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee by the Principal Officer for Compliance and Enforcement which detailed the work undertaken by the Licensing Compliance Team between 1 January and 31 March 2014.

Decision

To note the report.

LAP/14/12 Exclusion of the Public

A recommendation was made that the public be excluded during consideration of the following items of business.

Decision

To exclude the public during consideration of the following items which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons, and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

LAP/14/13 Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver licences issued under delegated authority between October – December 2013
(Public Excluded)

A report was submitted which informed the Committee of the decisions made under delegate authority in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licenses.

Decision

To note the report.