

Licensing and Appeals Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2014

Present:

Councillor Longsden in the Chair
Councillors Collins, Grimshaw, Loughman, Ludford, Lyons, Shilton Godwin, Stone and Teubler.

Apologies:

Councillors Austin and Evans.

LAP/14/17 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 21 July 2014 were submitted for consideration.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2014, with an amendment that Councillors Shilton Godwin and Teubler had given their apologies.

LAP/14/18 Proposed workplan for the Licensing and Appeals Committee

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was submitted which requested the Committee to consider the content of the report, and asked the Committee to advise officers of any additional items to be added to the workplan, and to then approve the workplan with or without amendments.

After discussion the Committee asked the officers to add the following items to the workplan.

1. To report on the issues around problem gambling, with particular emphasis on the vulnerability of communities in deprived areas with high numbers of licensed gambling premises. To include in this report a consideration of the relationship between Domestic Violence and problem gambling.
2. To set up a working group in conjunction with Greater Manchester Police, the Immigration Authorities, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and any other responsible authority, to examine the issue of illegal street pedlars in the Market Street area of the City Centre, to examine how the illegal pedlars are monitored, and how enforcement action is taken if needed. Councillor Grimshaw is to Chair the working group.
3. To develop and promote a publicity programme to encourage Hackney Carriage Drivers and Private Hire Drivers to comply with the forthcoming 20 mph speed limits to be introduced across Manchester.

Decision

To approve the workplan with the additional items included.

LAP/14/19 Report on the consultation relating to a proposal to fit mandatory Vehicle Identification Light Boxes into Hackney Carriage vehicles.

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee by the Principal Officer for Taxi Licensing.

The report advised the Committee of a request by a hackney carriage trade representative to fit all hackney carriage vehicles with a 'Vehicle Identification Light Box', a photo of which was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

The report recommended that prior to consideration of this request, a twelve week consultation period with the hackney carriage trade and the public should take place.

It is proposed that the consultation takes the form of two questionnaires (Public and Hackney Carriage Trade) attached to these minutes at Appendix 1.

Decision

To agree the 12 week consultation period, and to agree the questionnaire that will be used.

LAP/14/20 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/14/21 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 delegated authority in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licenses.

Decision

To note the report.

Public consultation

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Consultation

Q1 How do you recognise a hackney carriage taxi?

Q2 How do you recognise a private hire vehicle?

Q3 How do you recognise a hackney carriage vehicle licensed by Manchester City Council?

Q4 Should Manchester hackney carriage vehicles be unique to differentiate them from hackney carriages from other local authorities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q5 If yes, how?

☐ Colour ☐ Manchester City Council logo

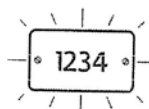


☐ Other – please specify

Q6 Every hackney vehicle has a unique licence number, displayed on plates which are attached to the front and rear of the vehicle. Do you think it would be a good idea to display this unique licence number on an illuminated light box, inside the vehicle, that lights up when passengers are inside?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer



Q7 What is your postcode?

The closing date for the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Consultation is XXXXXX.

Trade consultation

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Consultation

Q1 What is your status?

☐ Driver ☐ Owner

Q2 Should all hackney carriages licensed by Manchester City Council be easily recognisable by the public?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q3 Does our current policy on advertising on hackney carriage vehicles need to change to make them more easily recognisable to the public?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ If yes, how?

Q4 Should all new/replacement hackney carriage vehicles be allowed to advertise their own radio base on the exterior of the vehicle?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer

Q5 Should all new and replacement licensed hackney carriages be black in colour?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer

Q6 Should all hackney carriages have a Manchester crest displayed on the front doors of the vehicle? It is proposed that the crest, as shown below, is used and would incorporate the wording 'Licensed by'



☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer

- Q7 Are there other ways in which hackney carriage vehicles licensed by Manchester City Council can be distinguished in appearance and/or have such distinguishing marks to clearly identify the vehicle as a hackney carriage?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer

Content of adverts

- Q8 In relation to the content of any advertisements, it is proposed that consideration be given to adding the following within the policy (*shown in italics*):

*Health/safety and protection of the public – advertisements that market the following will not be approved:
Alcohol Cigarettes Gambling Payday loans (or similar)*

Do you think the statement shown above in italic should be included in the advertisement policy regarding advertisements that should not be approved?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer

- Q9 Are there any other issues in relation to the type of advertisements on/in hackney carriage vehicles that you feel should be addressed?

Please note that there is no intention to review the advertising policy in relation to advertising via TV screen, nor is the advertising on private hire vehicles included in the scope of this review.

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) light box

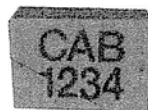
The vehicle licence number is currently displayed on the rear and front plates of all Manchester hackney carriage vehicles.

Representatives from the taxi trade have proposed that an illuminated light box (known as a VIN light box), which displays the licence plate number of a hackney carriage vehicle, could be installed in all hackney carriage vehicles licensed by Manchester City Council. The VIN light box would assist passengers in noting the licence number of the vehicle in which they are travelling. It is suggested that this would assist passengers with safety concerns or those wishing to make a complaint.

It is proposed that the VIN light box would be installed in the passenger compartment of all hackney carriage vehicles licensed by Manchester City Council, with the illuminated number facing the passenger.

- Q1 Do you think that displaying the vehicle identification number on an illuminated light box would assist passengers in recalling the licence plate number of the Manchester hackney carriage vehicle in which they are travelling?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer



- Q2 Should a policy be put in place making it mandatory for VIN light boxes to be installed in all hackney carriage vehicles licensed by Manchester City Council?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Please provide reason(s) for your answer

About you

Please note: the following information is required to ensure that only one response is recorded per licensed driver/vehicle owner.

Badge number: _____

Plate number: _____

Email address: _____

If appropriate, are you happy for your responses to be made public in the consultation review?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

The closing date for the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Consultation is XXXXXXXX.