

Licensing and Appeals Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017

Present

Councillor Ludford (in the Chair)

Councillors Barrett, Connolly, Cookson, Evans, Grimshaw, Hughes, Madeleine Monaghan, Paul and Stone.

Apologies

Councillors Hassan, Longsdon and Loughman.

LAP/17/3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2017 were submitted for consideration as a correct record.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017

LAP/17/4 Taxi Licensing Quarterly Report Qtr 2 16/17 (July - Sep 2016) and Service Update

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing. The report informed the Committee of the work undertaken by the Licensing Unit's Taxi Compliance Team for the following reporting period:

- Qtr 2 2016/17 (July – Sept 2016)

It is acknowledged that work associated with the Units service plan has been delayed due to the challenges related to the implantation of the Immigration Act 2016 and the introduction of Uniform.

It is envisaged that work will re-commence in earnest in March/April of this year, with the first reports being brought before Committee in May 2017. The first priorities will be:

1. A review of hackney carriage and private hire driver training and knowledge test with the emphasis on maintaining the current high standard that MCC has set and safeguarding.
2. Private hire Operator applications and conditions

A revised work plan will be provided to the Committee in May 2017.

A representative of the taxi trade spoke to the Committee and said that there were difficulties in recruiting drivers at present due to the delays in processing licence applications and the difficult knowledge tests. They requested that any review of driver training and knowledge testing is carried out with the involvement of the trade.

Officers confirmed that the process would involve a full consultation with the trade, and that there were plans in place to ensure that all applicants were fully informed of the process and timescales involved.

Decision

To note the report.

LAP/17/5 Exclusion of the public

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing.

The Committee considered that the following items of business contained confidential information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Decision

To exclude the public.

LAP/17/6 Consideration of UBER Application for Exemption to the Colour Policy for launch of a new Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle fleet.

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing.

The Committee considered the application and representations from UBER carefully. In all the circumstances the Committee did not consider that sufficient evidence had been put forward of the benefit of these exemptions to justify the additional risks to the public of granting the exemption.

Decision

To refuse to grant the application.