

Licensing and Appeals Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2018

Present

Councillor Ludford (in the Chair)

Barrett, Evans, Grimshaw, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, T. Judge, Lynch, McHale, Stone and Reid.

Apologies

Councillors Chohan and Madeleine Monaghan.

LAP/18/15 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2018 were submitted for consideration as a correct record.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018.

LAP/18/16 Hackney Carriage Fare Review

The Committee were presented with the report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing. The report provided the Committee with the information required to make a recommendation to the Executive in respect of the Hackney Carriage Fare Review 2018.

The report advised that the methodology used to review the hackney carriage fare has been in use since 2012; it is suggested that no fare review should take place this year until a full review of the current methodology is completed and a report brought back subsequently before the Committee.

It is also proposed that the related Unmet Demand Survey which takes place every 3 years (due 2018/19) be replaced by the introduction of a new 'Licensing Survey'; which would be broader in scope to provide more meaningful data that should help inform the Fare Review and would include an assessment of demand.

The report also details, that pending the provision of the above reports, there are some immediate changes required to the current fare card with regards credit card charges and the consideration of increased costs to the trade at Railway stations and Manchester Airport.

The Committee expressed grave concern about some aspects of the increased costs at Manchester Airport. They accepted that the charges would be introduced regardless, but commented that the lack of consultation with the public or any other interested party prior to the imposition of the charges was unacceptable. They also expressed concern that although the Manchester Airport Group (MAG) had agreed to consult on the charges, this would only take place after the charges were introduced.

In addition the Committee asked for further information as to how Blue Badge Holders travelling in Hackney Carriage Vehicles would be identified by the ANPR system that would be used to inform the charging system.

The Committee also asked for more information as to whether the charges would rise on an annual basis, as the report did not contain any information or costings. The Committee also commented that MAG had justified the introduction of the charges in an effort to reduce congestion around the Airport estate, but noted that to a large degree the congestion was as a result of building work and roadworks, which when completed would result in a natural decrease in congestion.

The Committee were not satisfied that the information provided by MAG and detailed in the report was enough to give them the information that they would require to make a decision on whether they could recommend to Executive that the increased charges should be added to the Hackney Carriage Fare Card at the present time.

Decision

1. To make a recommendation to Executive that a Review of the Hackney Carriage Fares will not take place until a report is brought back to the Licensing and Appeals Committee, which includes:
 - a. A review the current methodology used by the Council to review the hackney carriage fare
 - b. An outline of a 'Taxi Licensing Survey' that will replace the current 'unmet demand survey'
2. Pending the above review and report, to recommend to Executive that the immediate changes are made to the current fare card:
 - a. Executive note the removal of the text, which relates to the administration charges for using a credit card.
 - b. Cost of the Piccadilly Station Barrier to increase from 40p to 60p
 - c. Introduction of a barrier charge at the Ground Transport Interchange (Rail-link at Manchester Airport) of 60p.
3. To not recommend to Executive that the £1.80 drop off charge is added to the Hackney Carriage Fare Card due to lack of evidence based support for the recommendation.
4. To request further clarification as to how the introduction of the drop off charge was costed and calculated.
5. To request further clarification as to how the introduction of the drop off charge will impact on disabled people travelling in Hackney Carriages.

LAP/18/17 Exclusion of the Public

Officers considered that the following items contain 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. The Licensing and Appeals Committee Hearing Panel is recommended to agree the necessary resolutions excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of these items.

Decision

To exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting.

LAP/18/18 Application relating to the renewal of hackney carriage vehicle proprietor licence HV0035.

The Committee were presented with the report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing. On 6 April 2018 the applicant submitted a renewal application for the vehicle HV0035 which is 'out of time' as the vehicle licence in question expired on 29 March 2018.

The Committee heard representation from the applicant that explained the circumstances as to why the renewal application had been submitted 'out of time'.

After consideration, the Committee decided that the reasons given by the applicant were sufficient mitigation, so decided to grant the renewal.

Decision

To grant the application to renew the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors Licence for HV0035.