

Agenda Item 8.

TITLE	Issues Raised by Taxi Drivers
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 25 June 2019
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	AD Governance – Andrew Moulton

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Committee will determine the best course of action, taking into account the concerns raised by the taxi trade and the decisions which were made previously.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the concerns raised by a number of taxi drivers and decides what action to take if any.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

An email was received from Mr Arshad on 13 May 2019 asking the Committee to re-consider decisions which were made by the Licensing and Appeals Committee that affect the taxi trade in the Borough. This email was signed by 48 taxi drivers and is attached for reference as appendix 1.

Another email was received from Mr Mahmood on 30 May 2019 raising very similar issues, this is attached for reference as appendix 2.

The Licensing and Appeals Committee were contacted via email by Democratic Services and it was agreed that an item would be included in the agenda to discuss these issues.

Background

A Task and Finish Group to review and make recommendations in relation to the proposed Criteria Policy for Licensed Drivers was created in 2018. The Task and Finish Group met on 3 August 2018. The Group was composed of Members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee, Licensing Officers and one Taxi Driver.

The Criteria Policy for Licensed Drivers which was discussed and agreed at the 4 September 2018 and 13 November 2018 Licensing and Appeals Committee meetings reflected the proposals made by the Task and Finish Group.

Questions about UBER were asked at the 13 November 2018 meeting and the answers to those questions can be viewed in the minutes of the meeting.

The agendas and minutes of Licensing and Appeals Committees can be found in the Council's website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

Cross-Council Implications

N/A

List of Background Papers

Agendas and Minutes of the Licensing and Appeals Committee can be found in the Council's website.

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