

DRAFT/

TAXI CONSULTATION GROUP

5 October 2016

BEDFORD ROAD - PROHIBITION OF TAXIS

2. The Consultation Group had before it a request from Councillor Reynolds, the Depute Provost, that the Group discuss the implications, if any, on taxi drivers and passengers resulting from the current prohibition of taxi access at the bus gate at Bedford Road.

The Group heard from Councillor Reynolds who explained that he had received correspondence from taxi drivers that passengers had been complaining to them about the increase in journey distance now required and the subsequent increases in fares being charged, as a result of the introduction of the bus gate at Bedford Road.

The taxi trade representatives present concurred with the statement by Councillor Reynolds and further advised of the impact on the journey times and cost implications on passengers, since the introduction of this bus gate. As a result of this, the taxi trade requested that all bus gates within the city, allow access to all taxis, in particular taxis displaying yellow plates.

Members also proposed that an alternative to amending access to the existing bus gates to include taxis, would be reclassifying bus gates to bus lanes and recommended that both options be explored by officers.

With regards enforcement of bus gates, David McKane, Enforcement Officer, advised that monitoring of the bus gates was carried out by the camera enforcement unit and that vehicle registrations that were not on a list submitted to the unit received fines for unlawful use. Mr McKane confirmed that the gate at Dubford Road did allow for taxi access with registration plate monitoring undertaken to ensure drivers not complying with the restrictions were fined, however on occasion, taxi drivers were fined and had to obtain a refund.

The Consultation Group resolved:

- (i) to recommend that the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee instruct the Roads Infrastructure Manager to submit a report detailing the options for allowing taxis to have access to all bus gates in the city, in particular the bus gate on Bedford Road, including details on the statutory process which would be required, to a future meeting of that Committee; and
- (ii) to request that the decision of the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee be reported back to the Group in due course.