



## London council threatens crackdown on restaurants using food delivery apps

Restaurants that use delivery apps such as Uber Eats and Deliveroo will have to prove they are minimising disruption to Westminster Council

A London council is threatening to crack down<sup>1</sup> on restaurants using delivery apps like Uber Eats and Deliveroo in order to prevent the city from being "swarmed" with moped drivers.

The new policy by Westminster City Council will require restaurants that use apps for the bulk of their deliveries to apply for planning permission and prove that they are minimising potential disruption to local neighbourhoods.

10 The council warned that businesses could face "formal enforcement action" if they "flout"<sup>2</sup> new rules that are set to come into force in spring 2018.

Daniel Astaire, cabinet member for planning and public realm, said: "We have nearly 3,000 restaurants in Westminster and the council needs policies to keep up with new technology, ensuring that areas can cope with the increased demand for food deliveries."

15 He noted that while the food delivery apps provide a "fantastic service", they will create "traffic chaos" if left unchecked.

"It is a popular, much-needed service but we can't allow the city to be swarmed with delivery drivers."

Westminster has already taken action against a Nando's branch in Westbourne  
20 Grove after receiving more than 25 complaints from residents who said they were repeatedly disturbed by large groups of moped delivery drivers who were waiting for orders. Officers then reported seeing drivers parking inappropriately, making noise and causing congestion.

It eventually ordered the Nando's branch to stop offering deliveries [...]. Responding  
25 to the policy plans, Deliveroo said: "Deliveroo always works with communities and local authorities to ensure our service benefits restaurants, residents, riders and customers alike."

It is just the latest controversy surrounding popular food delivery apps, with companies like Deliveroo and Uber coming under fire for their participation in the so-called  
30 gig economy, which classes workers as self-employed and pays according to the number of deliveries or trips they complete.

Those companies have been urged to do more to protect workers' rights.

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(334 mots)

<sup>1</sup> To crack down = to be strict

<sup>2</sup> To flout = to ignore, not to respect