



Name of meeting and date:
Licensing and Safety Committee 26 March 2013

Title of report: Provision of Proposed New Taxi Ranks

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan</u>?	Not Applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by <u>Scrutiny</u>?	Not Applicable
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Not Applicable

Electoral wards affected: All

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

1.1 Hackney Carriage Stands (taxi ranks) are provided for the exclusive use of hackney carriages (taxis) to wait for their next hiring.

1.2 Taxi ranks are an important feature of both the taxi trade and urban life. Stands are vital if the taxi trade is to be able to perform its functions and fully realise its potential of providing transport for individuals. It is especially important that ranks are provided at locations that are convenient and suitable for the public, particularly disabled persons and other persons for whom other forms of transport are less accessible.

2. Background

2.1. The Council may appoint taxi ranks on the public highway or private land and the stands can be either continual or part-time use. If the stand is to be on a public highway, the consent of Kirklees Council (as the highways authority) is required. Before a new stand is created or the maximum number of vehicles that can use the stand is varied, notice must be given to West Yorkshire Police. A public notice must also be provided in one local newspaper. Any objections that are received must be considered before a rank is appointed or varied. At appendix 1 is a copy of the notice that was published in the Huddersfield Examiner on 11th February 2013.

2.2. It is important that wherever possible the Council keeps its taxi rank provision under review. There may be areas of the district where taxi stands would be extremely useful and heavily used, but where no provision is currently made. The taxi trade are best placed to answer these questions.

2.3. The Kirklees (Huddersfield) Taxi Owners Association made requests in relation to the lack of night time taxi rank provision in the Holmfirth and additional night time rank provision in Huddersfield Town centre.

(1) John William Street, Huddersfield

To appoint a taxi stand for 6 hackney carriage vehicles between the junction of Church Street and the junction of St Peters Street, Huddersfield. This proposed rank at John William Street provides bus stops during the day. It is proposed this stand shall only operate at night after the bus service ceases between 23.00 hours to 04.00 hours the next day. A map is attached at appendix 2

(2) Victoria Square, Holmfirth

It is proposed to appoint a taxi stand for 2 hackney carriage vehicles in the first lay-by adjacent to 15 – 17 Victoria Square, Holmfirth. It is proposed this stand shall only operate 20.00 hours to 02.00 hours the next day. A map is attached at appendix 3

(3) Victoria Street, Holmfirth

It is proposed to appoint a taxi stand for 4 hackney carriage vehicles adjacent to 24 – 30 Victoria Street, Holmfirth. It is proposed this stand shall only operate between the hours of 20.00 hours to 02.00 hours the next day. A map is attached at appendix 4

3. Consultees

West Yorkshire Police – no observations
Newsome Ward Councillors (John William Street) – no observations
Ward Councillors Holme Valley South – observations
Ward Councillors Holme Valley North – observations
Home Valley Parish Councillors - observations
Highways – no observations
Kirklees Parking Service – observations
Taxi Trade representatives – observations
Local Businesses – no observations
Copies of the observations received are at appendix 5

4. Financial considerations/implications

4.1. The Licensing Authority will bear the cost of the implementation and signage for the ranks if approved.

5. Legal considerations/implications

5.1. There is no right of appeal regarding the designation or amendment of a taxi rank. However the Authority should be prepared to give reasons for its decisions.

6. Environmental issues – No specific implications in this regard.

7. Equality and Diversity

7.1 Accessibility and meeting the needs of disabled users should be one of the key considerations when looking at the provision of taxi ranks.

8. Representations

This matter has been brought to the Committee at the request of our customers. The ward councillors for Home Valley South and Holme Valley Parish councillors strongly oppose the implementation of the ranks in Holmfirth. The Licensing Manager met with two of the ward councillors for Holme Valley South to discuss the proposed ranks. Ward Councillors suggested that extra rank provision could be made for the taxis in the new scheme for the bus station in Holmfirth. This work is due to be completed in 2014. Ward Councillors have proposed that in the meantime the proposed rank at Victoria Street is rejected but that the proposed rank at Victoria Square is approved on a time limited basis. They would not object to this rank being approved until the proposed provision in the revamped bus station is implemented.

9. Implications for the Council

Positive - Improved practise inline with Government standards

Negative – none

10. Officer recommendations and reasons

Officers recommend that the Licensing and Safety Committee recommend approval as requested for the rank at John William Street, Huddersfield as there have been no representations opposing this rank and the extra provision will ease ranking issues for the taxi trade in the late evenings and early morning hours.

With regard to the proposed ranks in Holmfirth.

The Licensing & Safety Committee has several options:-

- a) Approve implementation of the ranks in both Victoria square and Victoria Street as requested
- b) Reject approval of both proposed ranks.
- c) Approve implementation of both ranks on a time limited basis
- d) Approve implementation of the rank at Victoria square and reject Victoria Street or vice versa

11. Contact officer

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