



Name of meeting: **Licensing and Safety Committee**
 Date: **13 December 2016**
 Title of report: **Provision of Taxi Ranks in Holmfirth**

Key Decision - 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
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Key Decision – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Jacqui Gedman – 24/11/16
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director - Financial Management, Risk, IT & Performance?	Debbie Hogg – 10/11/16
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance & Monitoring?	Julie Muscroft – 24/11/16
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Mather – Portfolio Holder for Housing & Enforcement Management

Electoral wards affected: **Holmfirth**
 Ward Councillors consulted: **Holmfirth South**
 Public or private: **Public**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To review the approval of the Temporary Hackney Carriage Ranks at Victoria Street and Victoria Square and the proposed bus station rank.
- 1.2. Hackney Carriage Stands (taxi ranks) are provided for the exclusive use of hackney carriages (taxis) to wait for their next hiring.
- 1.3. 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 as 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. The relevant statutory Notices were published in the Huddersfield Examiner on 11th February 2013 for ranks to be implemented at the locations shown below.

(2) Victoria Square, Holmfirth

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.

(3) Victoria Street, Holmfirth

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.

At that time the following consultation were carried out and Committee will see from the list that observations were made by ward and parish councillors as well as the trade:

- West Yorkshire Police – 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

2.2. As a result of the observations the matter was determined at a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee on March 26th 2013. After hearing from Cllr Patrick and trade representatives the Committee made the following determination (decision in full is attached at Appendix 1)

(2) That approval be given for Temporary Hackney Carriage Taxi Ranks at Victoria Street (4 vehicles) and Victoria Square (2

vehicles), Holmfirth between 20:00 hours to 02:00 hours the next day.

(3) That discussions take place between the relevant parties and the Local Ward Councillors for the provision of appropriate Hackney Carriage Taxi Rank provision as part of the proposed new scheme for the Bus Station in Holmfirth.

The ranks were duly implemented and have operated since until the present time. Discussions did take place between the licensing department and highways colleagues and space for a rank was identified within the bus station area.

2.3. Ward councillors are pressing for the move to take place and trade representatives are opposed to the move taking place. The matter has therefore been brought back to this Committee for reconsideration of the matter.

2.4. Plans of the locations of these ranks are attached at Appendix 2A and 2B

3. Financial considerations/implications

3.1. The Licensing Authority bears the cost of the implementation and signage for the ranks.

4. Legal considerations/implications

4.1. 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.

4.2. If Members elect to move the ranks to the bus station a statutory notice must be published advertising the termination of the rank and the creation of the new rank in the bus station.

5. Environmental issues

5.1. No specific implications in this regard.

6. Equality and Diversity

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

7. Representations

7.1. This matter has been brought to the Committee at the request of our customers who are opposed to the bus station rank. The ward councillors for Holme Valley South strongly oppose the ranks remaining in their current location and wish to see the rank in the bus station implemented. A written representation from Cllr Patrick is attached at Appendix 3.

7.2. Ward councillors wish to see the current space returned to ordinary on street parking for road users. The trade are opposed to having the rank in the bus station as it would be a “backward” facing rank which would mean that customers reach the back of the rank first and would not go to the front of the queue. It is understood that representations will be made directly to the Committee from both ward councillors and trade representatives.

7.3. West Yorkshire Police have no observations to make on this matter.

7.4. A location plan and artists impression of the proposed bus station rank is also attached at Appendix 2 and 2A

8. Implications for the Council

8.1. Positive - Improved practise in line with Government standard.

8.2. Negative – none

9. Officer recommendations and reasons

9.1. Officers recommend that the Licensing and Safety Committee after hearing from interested parties reconsider the currently placed and proposed bus station rank.

9.2. The Licensing & Safety Committee has two options:

- a) Retain the ranks in both Victoria Square and Victoria Street
- b) Remove both ranks and approve the proposed bus station rank

10. Cabinet portfolio holder’s recommendations

10.1. Cllr Naheed Mather asks the Committee to consider the report and based on that and the site visit, to make a decision based on the Health & Safety of the trade and also taxi users.

11. Contact officer & relevant papers

Catherine Walter
Licensing, Local Land Charges & Highways Registry Manager
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: catherine.walter@kirklees.gov.uk

12. Assistant Director responsible

Joanne Bartholomew, Assistant Director – Place
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: joanne.bartholomew@kirklees.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Decision Summary

Committee: Licensing and Safety Committee
Date: 26 March 2013
Committee Clerk: David Gordon Tel: 01484 221000

Chair:
Councillor Mumtaz Hussain

Councillors Attended:
Steve Hall, Derek John Hardcastle, Mark Hemingway, Lisa J Holmes, Hilary S Richards, Phil Scott, Mohan S Sokhal, Amanda L Stubley

Apologies:
Councillors Ahmed, Brice, Palfreeman and Christine Smith

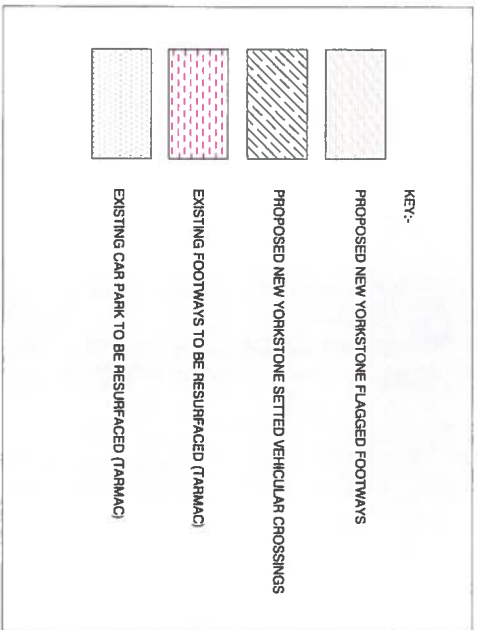
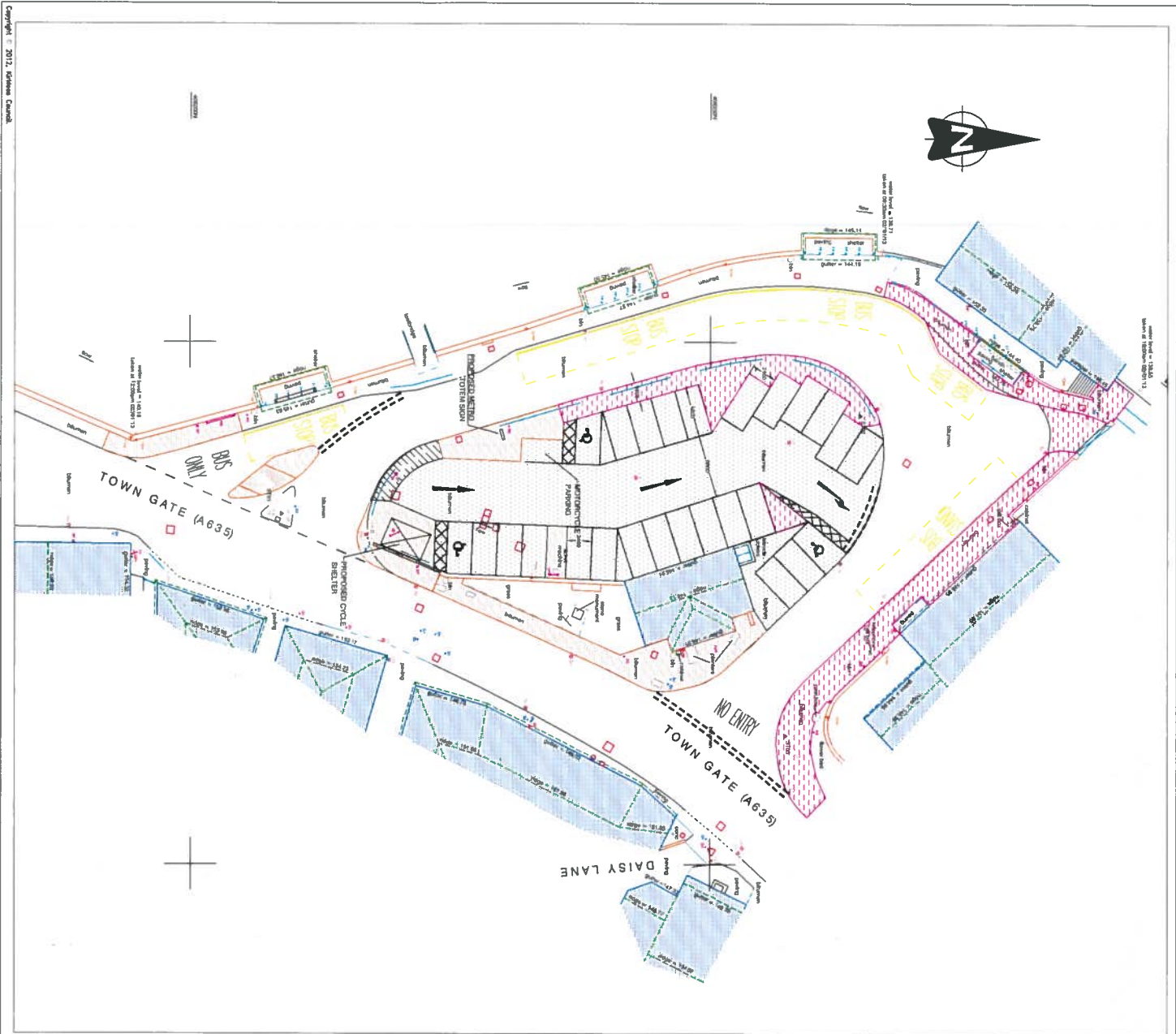
Proposed New Taxi Ranks at Holmfirth and Huddersfield Town Centre.
To consider proposals for new Taxi Ranks at Victoria Street and Victoria Square, Holmfirth and John William Street, Huddersfield.

Contact:
Catherine Walter - 01484 456860

Wards Affected: Holme Valley South, Newsome Decision:

- (1) That approval be given for the Taxi Rank at John William Street, Huddersfield between the junction of Church Street and the junction of St Peter's Street for 6 Hackney Carriage vehicles between 23:00 hours to 04:00 hours the next day.
- (2) That approval be given for Temporary Hackney Carriage Taxi Ranks at Victoria Street (4 vehicles) and Victoria Square (2 vehicles), Holmfirth between 20:00 hours to 02:00 hours the next day.
- (3) That discussions take place between the relevant parties and the Local Ward Councillors for the provision of appropriate Hackney Carriage Taxi Rank provision as part of the proposed new scheme for the Bus Station in Holmfirth.

APPENDIX 2



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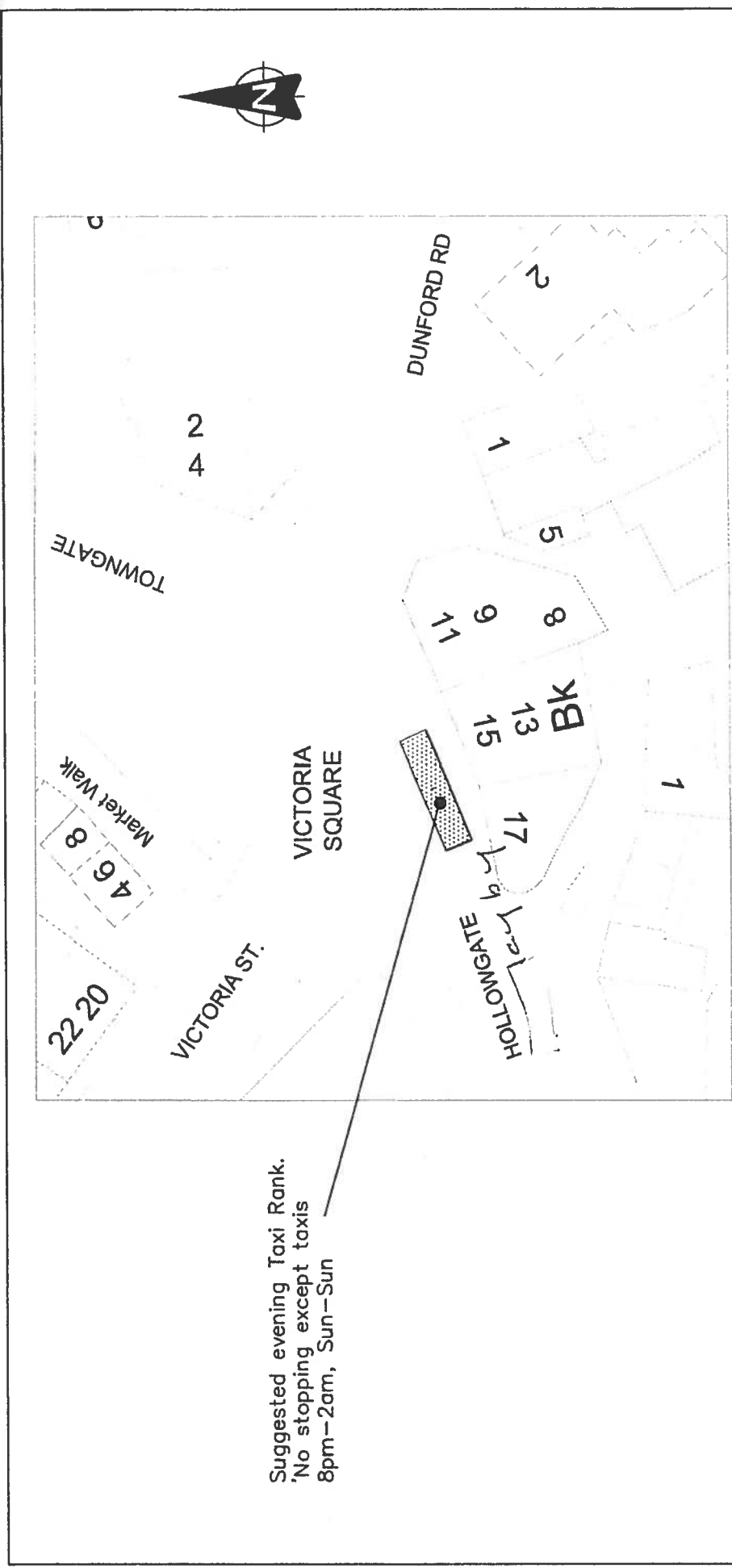
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<p>Kirklees COUNCIL</p>	
<p>Directorate of Place One Centre 3, Market Street Huddersfield, HD1 2TG</p>	
SECTION	HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT
DESIGNER	JDW
PROJECT NO.	25/04/24
DATE	MAY 13
PROJECT	HOLMFIRTH TRANSPORT HUB
TITLE	DRAFT LAYOUT
DRAWING NO.	HD/1285/DRAFT/JDW/1A
CDR No.	

APPENDIX 2A




— = potential hackney rank 11pm - 4am for a minimum of 6 vehicles.

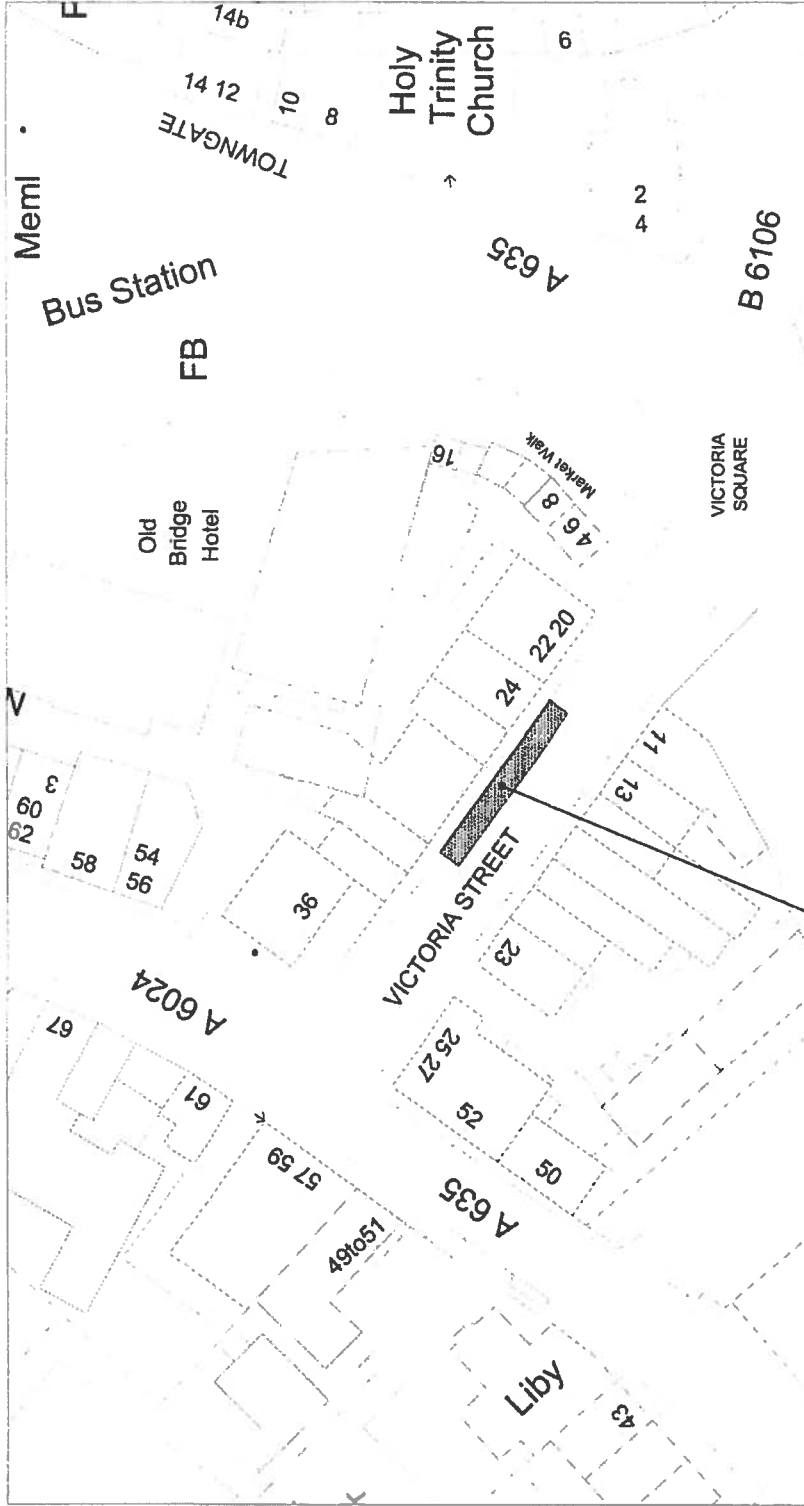


Suggested evening Taxi Rank.
 'No stopping except taxis
 8pm - 2am, Sun - Sun

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 Date: 2007

 <p>Kirklees COUNCIL</p>	Project	
	Victoria Square, Holmfirth	
<p>Highways & Transportation Flint Street, Fartown Huddersfield, HD1 6LG</p>	Title	
	Suggested Evening Taxi Rank	
Scale		NTS
Drawn		Checked
Joe		
Section		Date
Safety		31/3/11
Drawing No.		TF/18/200/194.2


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Suggested evening Taxi Rank.
 'No stopping except taxis
 8pm-2am, Sun-Sun

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 <p>Kirklees COUNCIL</p>	Project		Victoria Street, Holmfirth	
	Title		Suggested Evening Taxi Rank	
<p>Highways & Transportation Flint Street, Fartown Huddersfield, HD1 6LG</p>	Scale		NTS	
	Drawn	Joe	Checked	
	Section	Safety	Date	31/3/11
Drawing No.			TF/18/200/194	

APPENDIX 3

Dear Catherine,

My representation for the licensing and safety committee on 13th December 2016 in relation to the Hackney Carriage Ranks in Holmfirth is as follows.

A decision was made by the Licensing and Safety Committee on the 26th March 2013 to approve a 'temporary' hackney carriage rank at Victoria Street (4 cars) and one at Victoria Square (2 cars) to operate between 8pm and 2am. The decision notice also says that discussions take place with relevant parties and ward councillors regarding the provision of a hackney carriage rank as part of the new scheme for the bus station.

Ward councillors were against the proposal to create a hackney carriage rank in Victoria Street and Victoria Square as these were not considered by us to be good sites, being on a busy road and close to residential properties (flats above shops). A rank already existed next to the Post Office but it was little used. Since the temporary approval there have been problems with hackney carriages parking on Victoria Street and Victoria Square and a number of complaints have been reported by members of the public and ward councillors regarding over ranking and the parking of hackney carriages on both sides of Victoria Street. This narrows the road and creates traffic problems as well as road safety issues. Hackney carriages continue to over rank and park illegally despite being told not to.

The bus station improvements have taken place and taxis can now be accommodated in the bus station. As bus services cease more space becomes available and there is sufficient room to resite the six taxi rank spaces, indeed there is capacity for more. The bus station is in the centre of the town, is well lit and forms a safe point for taxis to pick up customers.

This representation is supported by all three ward councillors.

I trust the Licensing Committee will support us and move the hackney taxi ranks to the bus station.

Regards

Cllr Nigel Patrick
Ward Councillor