

HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANKS IN HOCKLEY

1 SUMMARY

Members are invited to consider matters relating to proposed changes to Hackney Carriage Ranks in Hockley following receipt of a formal objection.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Council approved the relocation of the Hackney Carriage Rank in Spa Road, Hockley and provision of a feeder rank on 4 November 1999 (Minute 120 - Transportation Sub-Committee) when changes to the Lagoon in Rayleigh High Street were also considered. The latter were subsequently deferred and the Hockley proposals solely advertised in the Southend Standard for 14 July 2000.

3 ORIGINAL PROPOSALS

In accordance with Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the proposals to resite the Spa Road Rank and provide a feeder rank were publicised in the Southend Standard of 14 July 2000 and objections invited within 28 days of that date. One objection has been received from a disabled motorist.

- 3.1 The objector states the proposal in Bramerton Road, Hockley is likely to cause friction with taxi drivers because it would reduce the availability of space for disabled drivers to park. He further states the two spaces for disabled motorists are situated in the Public Car Park, which is away from the main shopping area, and parking in Spa Road is unsafe to other road users and pedestrians. Insofar as the existing rank is concerned, the objector considers the proposals to be dangerous because of the slight curvature to the left for traffic travelling in the direction of the Railway Bridge.
- 3.2 A detailed reply has been sent to the objector emphasising the consultations made with interested parties and that both the County Council, as Highway Authority, and Police favoured the proposal.
- 3.3 The advantages of the changes can be summarised as follows:-
 - (1) Movement of Spa Road rank, and reduction to one vehicle capacity, removes it from the approach side of pedestrian crossing whilst reducing overtaking distance when a taxi is parked.

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- (2) Reduces need for shoppers from supermarket to use pedestrian crossing to reach the Taxi Rank and allows trolleys to be taken directly to vehicle. This is considered to be beneficial to those with mobility problems without their own transport.
- (3) The proposed Bramerton Road Rank, which has restricted hours of operation, will allow vehicles to feed as required to the new Spa Road Rank on the correct side of the road. The bay constructed by the County Council, outside Barclays Bank in Spa Road and intended for use by disabled motorists would effectively replace the loss of space in Bramerton Road referred to by the objector.
- (4) At the time of writing this report, the new wheelchair accessible taxi for Hockley is due to be introduced. The narrow pavement by the existing Spa Road rank is inadequate for the ramps required to load wheelchairs but the revised location has sufficient space.
- 3.4 No response has been received from the objector to the letter sent after receipt of his objection. Any subsequent response if received, will be reported at Committee. Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 require that the Council “shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposals which may be made to them in writing”.

4 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any amendment to the previously advertised proposals would require to be advertised and attendant costs incurred.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that this Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the objection to the proposals for the introduction of a Hackney Carriage Rank in Bramerton Road, Hockley and the relocation of the rank in Spa Road be noted.
- (2) That the proposals as set out in the Public Notice dated 14 July 2000 be approved and Officers instructed to implement them without undue delay.
- (3) A letter be sent to the objector thanking him for his interest and confirming proper consideration had been given to his concerns. (HRHM)

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

Transportation Sub-Committee Minute 14 November 1999 and associated papers.

Objector's letter dated 14 July 2000 and response dated 28 July 2000

Public Notice, Southend Standard 14 July 2000

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

For further information please contact Frank Spence (01702) 546366