

TAXI STANDS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider the provision of additional rank space in the District as outlined in the report.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that adequate taxi stands are provided for Hackney Carriages to ensure convenience for the travelling public.
- 2.2 In the last four years, there has been around a 40% uplift in the number of Hackney Carriages with no commensurate increase in rank space. In fact, at the request of the trade, ranks formerly positioned in Dalys Road (to serve Rochford Hospital) and Ashingdon Road/York Road junctions have now been removed.
- 2.2 Over-ranking is evident in both Rochford and Rayleigh and has led to Police on traffic warden intervention. Clearly a remedy to these problems need to be sought.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Head of Service has reviewed the letters of representation from drivers and operators and had informal discussions with individual drivers. The following is not an exhaustive list and Members may wish to consider other stands.
- 3.2 Drawings are appended to show the locations of proposed new stands. Informal discussions have also been conducted with Essex County Council Highways Officers who have offered no initial objection to these proposals but who, in any case, are statutory consultees along with Essex Police.

High Street, Rayleigh

Provision of a seven vehicle feeder rank for the existing seven vehicle rank in "Boots Lagoon" (Appendix 1). The introduction of this stand will have the two-fold effect of providing additional rank space and preventing casual parking along this stretch of road.

Provision of a two vehicle rank outside 12-16 High Street (close to Berry's Arcade) (Appendix 2). This will provide a convenient location

for those wishing to hire at the northern end of the High Street. The two bays are currently designated for casual public parking for up to 30 minutes with no return within 2 hours.

London Hill, Rayleigh

Provision of a three vehicle rank outside 2 London Hill (British Legion Hall) (Appendix 3). This will provide a convenient location for hirers leaving the British Legion Hall or activities associated with Holy Trinity Church. It is also in close proximity to one of the Rayleigh Taxi Offices. These three bays are currently designated for casual public parking for up to one hour with no return within three hours.

North Street, Rochford

Provision of a two vehicle rank outside 12-18 North Street (Rochford Congregational Church). This is located close to a taxi office in Rochford and in the proximity of three public houses. The provision would help redress The loss of one space in the Market Square following town centre improvement works.

4 DISABLED PERSONS PARKING

- 4.1 The Head of Service wrote to the Rochford District Access Committee for the Disabled to canvass their views on a consideration to re-site the two parking bays in the Boots Lagoon to positions on the northern side of the High Street. Both written and personal representation has been received vehemently rejecting this proposal and expressing disappointment that the issue has surfaced again.
- 4.2 The Chairman and the Secretary of the Access Committee reminded the Sub-Committee that they were originally included in the consultation process when town centre improvements were considered and at that stage strongly defended the retention of these spaces. This was fully supported by the Council.
- 4.2 The Access Committee consider these spaces essential for the well being of blue badge holders and would not consider substituting these for other spaces on the northern side of the High Street.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 If Members are minded to create additional rank space recommendations would need to be made to Environmental Service Committee on 5 September for the statutory consultation process to begin.

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- 5.2 Consultees would include Essex County Council Highways Division, Essex Police and the Chambers of Trade for the towns concerned.
- 5.3 Subject to comments by consultees, any proposals to introduce new ranks would be subject to public notice, when again, objections might be forthcoming. Once final approval is agreed, the Head of Legal Services would need to make an appropriate Order. The stands could then be signed, marked out and come into use.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That Members consider sites for new taxi stands in the District.
(HRHM)

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Background Papers:

None

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