



**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 20TH MAY 2013**  
**AT 6.00 P.M.**

**COMMITTEE ROOM, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE**

MEMBERS: TO ALL MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE LICENSING  
COMMITTEE

**AGENDA**

1. Election of Chairman
2. Election of Vice-Chairman
3. To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutes
4. Declarations of Interest
5. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 29th October 2012 (Pages 1 - 4)
6. Worcester Road Taxi Rank - Review (Pages 5 - 14)
7. Licensing Committee Work Programme (Pages 15 - 16)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme for the current municipal year 2013 / 2014.

8. To consider any other business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

K. DICKS  
Chief Executive

The Council House  
Burcot Lane  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B60 1AA

9th May 2013



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Meeting Agendas  
Meeting Minutes  
The Council’s Constitution

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## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 29TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 6.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. R. L. Dent (Chairman), Mrs. C. J. Spencer (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. S. J. Baxter, Mrs. J. M. Boswell, Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, J. R. Boulter, Ms. M. T. Buxton, S. J. Dudley, K. A. Grant-Pearce, Miss P. A. Harrison, Mrs. H. J. Jones and R. J. Shannon

Officers: Mrs. S. Sellers, Ms. S. Garratt, Mr. A. Fox and Mrs. P. Ross

10/12 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S. P. Shannon.

11/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

12/12 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 11th June 2012 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

13/12 **REVISED STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES**

The Committee was asked to consider a report which advised Members of the outcome of the recent consultation exercise undertaken with stakeholders in respect of the 2013 / 2016 Statement of Gambling Principles. The 12 week consultation period closed on 17th October 2012.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner presented the report and in doing so informed Members that the Gambling Act 2005 required all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of the principles that they proposed to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during the three year period to which the policy applied. Members were advised that there had been no significant changes to the legislation or guidance affecting gambling since the previous Statement of Principles had been adopted by the Council. Members were further informed that no responses had been received during the consultation process.

The Acting Licensing Manager and Senior Licensing Practitioner responded to Members' questions with regard to:

- Frivolous or vexatious representations
- No requirement under legislation to notify Elected Members
- How persons representing the interests of those who are likely to be affected by the exercise of Bromsgrove District Council's functions under the Gambling Act 2005, were consulted on the document.

**RESOLVED** that, the Committee notes the outcome of the consultation exercise and recommends to the Cabinet that the revised Statement of Gambling Principles 2013 / 2016 be adopted.

14/12 **WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES - LICENSING COMMITTEE'S AND SHARING BEST PRACTICE**

(The Chairman agreed for this matter to be raised as an urgent item).

The Acting Licensing Manager, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) informed the Committee that she had been asked by Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council, Portfolio Holders for Regulatory Services if there would be any merit in holding a meeting of the Portfolio Holders for Regulatory Services and the Chairman of Licensing Committee's for each of the WRS partner authorities. The meeting would provide an opportunity to look at and discuss policies common to partner authorities across WRS and share ideas of best practice.

During a detailed discussion Members acknowledged that it was always appropriate to develop and use best practice. Concern was expressed however that as this Council already had robust Licensing Policies which had been proved to work well, in Bromsgrove, it may be inappropriate to develop broader joint policies to cover a number of authorities. The Acting Licensing Manager responded to Members' concerns and stressed that she had raised the possibility of a meeting as requested, with a view to obtaining the Committee's views on the matter and to ascertain whether there would be any benefit in holding such a meeting. It was not intended that there would be any impact on the ability of individual partner authorities to have their own locally agreed versions of policies.

Members agreed that specific detailed information would be required before a decision could be taken by the Committee in respect of participating in any proposed meetings. Members agreed it would be important for Bromsgrove to be represented should any future meetings be agreed, but Members sought further clarification with regard to the proposed meetings and what additional benefits would attach to member member discussions on the basis that WRS officers already work collaboratively and share best practice across partner authorities.

Further discussion followed and Members questioned if there were any Terms of Reference for the proposed meetings and if there would be any decision making process in respect of joint policies.

The Principal Solicitor informed the Committee that governance arrangements were in place under the WRS, Service Level Agreement and Terms of Reference and that there was no proposal for any of those arrangements to be changed. The decision of whether to participate in the proposed meeting was one to be taken by the Licensing Committee to whom Council had delegated the Licensing function. The Principal Solicitor suggested that officers obtain further detailed information about the proposal to meet with the other WRS partner authorities and that a report be brought back to the Committee when this information was available.

**RESOLVED** that the Acting Licensing Manager be tasked to obtain further detailed information in respect of the proposed WRS partner authorities meeting and report back to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.27 p.m.

Chairman

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## LICENSING COMMITTEE

20<sup>TH</sup> May 2013

### WORCESTER ROAD TAXI RANK - REVIEW

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

#### 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report sets out details of a request made by the Bromsgrove Taxi Association, to amend the Worcester Road Hackney Carriage Rank to incorporate a further 7/8 rank spaces. The proposal is supported by West Mercia Police. Members are asked to consider the request and to authorise Officers to conduct a 28 days public consultation.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members consider the request that the Worcester Road Hackney Carriage Rank be amended and note the plan of the new lay-out as proposed by Worcestershire County Council Highways Department (Appendix 3).
- 2.2 That Members agree that the proposals to amend the rank be subject to public consultation for a period of 28 days.
- 2.3 That the outcome of the public consultation exercise is reported back to Licensing Committee.

#### 3. KEY ISSUES

##### Financial Implications

- 3.1 The cost of the public notice and other administrative costs will be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
- 3.2 The cost of amendments to the Traffic Regulation Order will be met by the Highways Authority; who is also responsible for marking out of any changes to the road.

**LICENSING  
COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>TH</sup> May 2013**

**Legal Implications**

- 3.3 Licensing Authorities have power under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to create, amend and revoke Hackney Carriage Stands (ranks). This allows district councils to “appoint stands for Hackney Carriages” either on public highways or private land and the stands can be for either continual or part-time use.
- 3.4 The Traffic Regulation Order would need to be amended and Worcestershire County Council’s Highways Unit has the power to do this. There is also statutory consultation period as part of their process.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.5 By way of background, Licensing Officers have been working with members of the Taxi Association and the police for some months now to monitor the operation of the taxi rank on Worcester Road and the interim arrangement for taxis to use Station Road. As Members will be aware Worcester Road is a busy area of town in terms of the night time economy and it’s proximity to various licensed premises means that there is a concentration of members of the public at that location looking to use taxis at the end of the evening. The interim arrangement for using part of Station Road to provide additional rank spaces took place on a trial basis; however, as set out in Appendix 2, that arrangement caused problems for local residents.
- 3.6 Accordingly, an alternative option is now being proposed which would involve extending the existing taxi rank on Worcester Road. A letter from the Bromsgrove Taxi Association has been received dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 requesting that the Licensing Authority amend Worcester Road Hackney Carriage Rank to incorporate at least 7 more spaces. Members are asked to note that the actual numbers of additional spaces that can be added to the rank will be determined by the Highways Authority. A copy of the letter from the Taxi Association can be found at Appendix 1. These additional spaces would be available for use between the hours of 7pm to 7am.
- 3.6 A letter from West Mercia Police has been received dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in support of the proposed amendment and can be found at Appendix 2.
- 3.7 Worcestershire County Council Highways Department is in agreement with these proposals and if Members agree to go out to public

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>TH</sup> May 2013**

consultation they will undertake consultation on the Road Traffic Regulation Orders at the same time. The Highways Department has worked with the Council to produce plans of the proposed changes to Worcester Road which include the extension of the existing taxi rank. A copy of the plan showing the new proposed lay out of the extended taxi rank is attached at Appendix 3. Highways officers estimate that the new configuration will allow room for at least 9 taxis in total; this would consist of 3 taxis on the existing rank and an additional 6 on the extended area.

- 3.8 Under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a district council is required to publish a notice in a local newspaper and wait 28 days from publication, after which Members will need to consider any written representations of objection (if any). Members are asked to note that the outcome of the public consultation, including any objections received, will be reported back to the Licensing Committee

### **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The main risk associated with the detail included in this report is:

- To ensure that public transport is readily available, accessible and effective in contributing to the night time economy.

### **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1	Letter from the Taxi Association
Appendix 2	Letter from West Mercia Police
Appendix 3	Plan of Worcester Road showing proposed new lay-out of the taxi rank

### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Sue Garratt - Licensing Manager.  
Worcestershire Regulatory Services  
E Mail: [sue.garratt@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sue.garratt@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01527) 534196

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**Bromsgrove Taxi Association**

**Request for a taxi rank extension**

To Sue Garratt  
Licensing Manager  
Worcestershire Regulatory Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

The Bromsgrove Taxi Association would like to request that the Worcester Road taxi rank to be extended by a minimum of SEVEN spaces. This would increase the total capacity to TEN spaces.

Regards

Lee Shepherd Chairman  
Lee Eacock Vice Chairman

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Bromsgrove Police Station,  
17 The Crescent,  
Bromsgrove,  
B60 2 DF  
Telephone :ext 3233

30 April 2013

Our Ref:SAC

Dear Sir or Madam:

A recent meeting was held with representatives from Bromsgrove District council (Kevin Dicks ,Chief executive , Martin Ashcroft , Partnerships and Projects manager) , Worcester regulatory services (Susan Garratt) , taxi association ( Lee Eacock and Lee Shepherd) and West Mercia Police (Insp Sharron Cannings and PC Anna Harding ) .The meeting discussed issues relating to the situation with the status of the current taxi ranks in existence in Bromsgrove Town and in particular on Worcester Road and concerns relating to the night time economy .

The current situation is that in order to service the patrons from the night time economy , there are only 3 dedicated /approved taxi ranks on the Worcester Rd , being situated outside Love to Love . This means that the remaining taxi drivers have to park and queue along Worcester Rd causing issues , relating to illegal parking on the footpath and obstructions for emergency vehicle access.

As a result of this an unofficial , temporary practise has been in place since December 2012 , where the waiting taxis are now parking along Station Street awaiting fares . However this has caused problems for residents on Station Street , such as noise and traffic congestion during the early hours and is not a long term solution as it is not an officially approved or designated rank .

It is proposed that the taxi association will request a formal review of the current provision and enable the due process to be considered through the Licensing Committee.

I understand that the suggested proposal relates to the consideration for extra provision for taxi parking ranks as part of the ongoing Bromsgrove regeneration scheme .The suggestion being that the current rank which is situated outside Love to Love is extended by moving the lay by from the offside to the nearside of Worcester Road with the request for the addition of further ranks being accommodated into this space as part of the highways plans.

The police would support this proposal in conjunction with the taxi association as clearly the current situation is that the number of taxis parked waiting for fares on Worcester Rd far out numbers the allocated taxi parking ranks .The addition of further designated ranks would alleviate this .

From the police point of view the taxi drivers provide a crucial service in the policing of the night time economy in Bromsgrove as they ensure that members of the public are safely and quickly transported away from the



**PROTECT - MANAGEMENT NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

town centre and thus prevent the potential for alcohol fuelled disorder and prevent large groups gathering . This is of particular importance when the licensed premises on Worcester Rd close their doors in the early hours ( Love to Love and The Dog and Pheasant ) and a large number of people leave these premises at the same time , converging onto the Worcester Rd.

Our taxi colleagues provide a valuable service in transporting customers away from the town safely and the addition of extra ranks would allow them to continue to operate their businesses efficiently as well as supporting our policing operations.

Further parking spaces would also enable the drivers to keep a moving , constant flow of taxis, preventing illegal parking and congestion and the associated noise pollution.

The unofficial temporary rank on Station Street would no longer exist and this would alleviate issues for the residents in this area.

Yours sincerely ,

Inspector Sharron Cannings  
Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Inspector .



**Key**

- Existing Surface Course to be heated and replaced with 40mm thick paving stones.
- Existing granite kerbs to be cleaned and replaced.
- Existing raised crosswalkway surfaces to be removed. Brick sets to be retained for use on vehicular crossing points on Worcester Road.
- Footway resurfaced with retained brick pavers.
- Marshall's Saxon Textured Concrete Paving (Brown) 450 x 300 x 70mm (FL518750), as demonstrated in the new setting zone.
- Marshall's Saxon Textured Concrete Paving (Grey) 450 x 300 x 70mm (FL516500), laid in stretcher bond.
- Marshall's Saxon Textured Concrete Paving (Brown) 450 x 300 x 70mm (FL518750), laid in stretcher bond.
- Existing tactile paving at crossings to be replaced with same, as WCC Specification.
- 25mm thick AC 6 Dense Surf 100/150 110mm thick, AC 20 Dense Bin 100/150.
- Marshall's Slot Drain 105, Duo Components, installed parallel to new paving.
- Existing channels traversing footway from building downpipes to be replaced (see Drg No. P219517).
- Proposed SW Inspection Chamber with cover (see Note 6) to be installed on footway and downstream for future use. Laid within private land subject to consent.
- Litter Bin
- Pedestrian Guard Rail (6m)

**Notes**

- All dimensions are in metres unless otherwise shown.
- Refer to Drawing No. P219517 for highway and footway construction details.
- Phasing of Works shall be undertaken as shown.
- All footway bollards and other surplus street furniture to be removed.
- All BT inspection covers and frames to be replaced with approved recessed cover trays to accept new surface materials.
- Section of Taut Rail to be kept clear for Access to existing properties from 7am - 7pm.

Date	Rev	Details
20/07/2013	C	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	D	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	E	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	F	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	G	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	H	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	I	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	J	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	K	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	L	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	M	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	N	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	O	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	P	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	Q	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	R	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	S	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	T	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	U	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	V	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	W	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	X	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	Y	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval
18/07/2013	Z	Issue for Public Consultation and Approval

**Project:** High Street, Bromsgrove Improvements

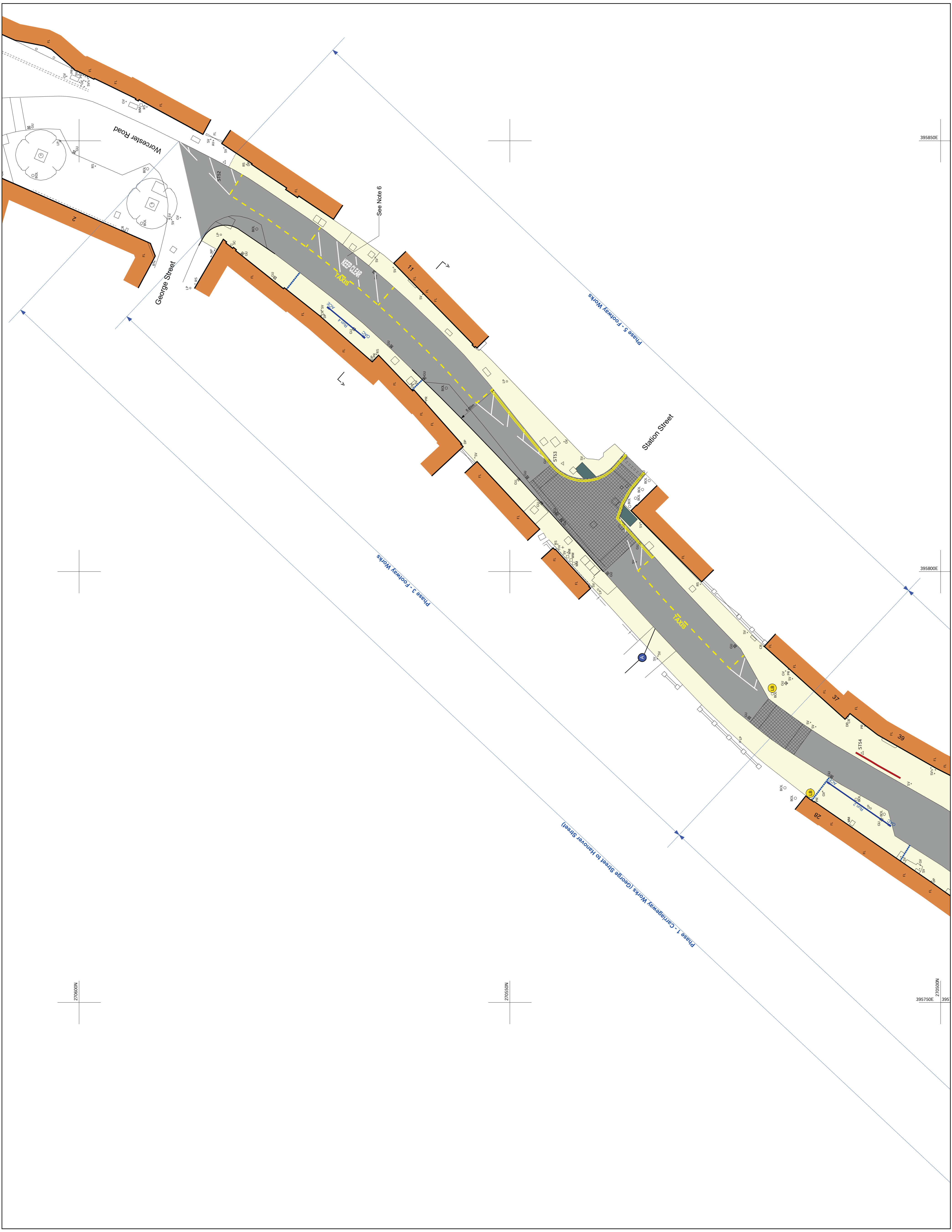
**Drawing:** Worcester Road - General Layout (sheet 1 of 4)

Drawn:	PTL	Scale:	1/200
Surveyed:	IS	Date:	Jul 2012
Drawing No:	P219514D		

**Engineering and Design**  
 Owen Hill Square  
 Redditch  
 Worcs B98 8AH

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## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**20th May 2013**

### **LICENSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

#### **20th May 2013**

- § Worcester Road Taxi Rank
- § Licensing Committee Work Programme 2013/2014

#### **24th June 2013**

- § DPPO (Designated Public Places Order)- Update on the review process and the proposed public and stakeholder consultation
- § Fees & Charges
- § WRS (Worcestershire Regulatory Services) Licensing Committee's and sharing Best Practice - Verbal update from the Licensing Manager and Acting Business Support Services Manager, WRS
- § Licensing Act Annual Report
- § Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase Request

#### **30th September 2013**

#### **25th November 2013**

#### **17th March 2014**

#### **To Be Allocated To Suitable Available Dates**

Systems Thinking Approach – update for Committee Members 2013  
Street Café Policy  
Street Collections  
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013  
Licensing Policy Statement Review

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