

**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.**

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**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

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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**

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