

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

23rd June 2014

WORCESTER ROAD HACKNEY CARRIAGE STAND – NEW PROPOSAL

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rita Dent
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

To advise Members of the response to a recent 28 day public consultation on a proposal to provide additional spaces for hackney carriages to stand and ply for hire in Worcester Road and to ask Members to decide whether to proceed with the appointment of the proposed hackney carriage stand.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE;

(a) Whether or not to appoint a hackney carriage stand as proposed and shown at Appendix 1.

(b) If Members decide to appoint a hackney carriage stand, to instruct officers to carry out the legal process required.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 The cost of signage and road markings required will be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Legal Implications

3.2 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

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highways or private land and the stands can be for either continual or part-time use.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 At the Licensing Committee meeting that took place on 17th March 2014, Members considered a proposal to create a stand for hackney carriages between 11pm and 5am in an area on the West side of Worcester Road to the North of Station Street. This area is currently subject to a 30 minute waiting limit (no return within 1 hour) between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday. A plan showing the proposed position of this hackney carriage stand is at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 It is proposed that this area be amended so that it remains as a restricted parking area with a 30 minute waiting limit (no return within 1 hour) between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday and also be appointed as a stand for hackney carriages between 11pm and 5am. The area should provide sufficient space for 6/7 additional hackney carriages to stand and ply for hire.
- 3.5 The proposed hackney carriage stand would be in line of sight of the existing part-time hackney carriage stand which is located on the East side of Worcester Road, to the South of the junction with Station Street. This area is outside of Neales Garage and operates as a loading bay between 7am and 7pm and as a stand for hackney carriages between 7pm and 7am.
- 3.6 The intention is that the proposed hackney carriage stand should operate predominantly as a “feeder” to the existing part-time stand. If the proposed stand operates in this way, it ensures that passengers can enter vehicles directly from the pavement on the nearside. This is considered to be safer than having to enter the vehicle from the middle of the road, where there is an increased risk of a traffic accident in what is a relatively narrow road.
- 3.7 The proposal being put forward would not require any additional alterations to be made to the existing road layout, aside from any road markings or signage required.
- 3.8 As the proposed hackney carriage stand would only be appointed as such between 11pm and 5am, the area would remain available to be used for parking by the general public for 30 minutes (no return within 1 hour) between 8am and 6pm and without restriction between 6pm and 11pm and 5am and 8am. This will help minimise the impact of the proposed stand on businesses in Worcester Road, whose customers currently utilise this area for parking.

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- 3.9 Worcestershire County Council's Highways Unit had also confirmed that they would not need to amend any existing Traffic Regulation Orders to implement the proposal being put forwards.
- 3.10 Before it can proceed to appointing a hackney carriage stand, under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s63, the district council was required to publish a notice in a local newspaper and wait 28 days from publication, after which Members are required to consider any written representations of objections (if any) received.
- 3.11 Following the meeting on the 17th March 2014, a notice was published in a local newspaper inviting comments on the proposal. Furthermore site notices were placed in Worcester Road to draw the public's attention to the proposal. Additionally letters were delivered to businesses and residents in Worcester Road, to highlight the proposal to them.
- 3.12 Notice was also given to the Chief Officer of West Mercia Police about the proposal as required by the legislation, and the Bromsgrove Taxi Association were also notified of the proposal through their Chairman.
- 3.13 No objections have been received from members of the public or the taxi trade about the proposal. A letter has been received from West Mercia Police Traffic Management Advisor Mr Rod Lake, who states that *"as a result of detailed discussions with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team who support the amended scheme I have no objection to the proposal."*
- 3.14 Members are asked to decide whether to now proceed with the appointment of the proposed hackney carriage stand.

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 – Location Plan

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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