

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**23RD FEBRUARY 2009**

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Peter Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	David Hammond

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To consider creating two new Hackney Carriage Stands and re-confirming the existence of two existing Stands.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Members approve, subject to the necessary amendments being made to Traffic Regulation Orders:
- (a) the creation of a new Hackney Carriage Stand at Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, in accordance with the attached plan;
  - (b) the creation of a new Hackney Carriage Stand at New Road Service Road, Rubery, in accordance with the attached plan;
  - (c) the re-confirmation of an existing Stand at The Strand, Bromsgrove;
  - (d) the re-confirmation of an existing Stand at Market Street Bus Station, Bromsgrove.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following a review of all Hackney Carriage Stands in the district, the Council has been approached by the Police Authority to look at introducing an additional Hackney Carriage Stand in the Town area to help reduce crime and disorder during the evenings, as well as enhancing current taxi rank provision by making proper provision for public transport providers and users. In addition, the taxi trade have requested that the Council looks at introducing a new Stand in New Road, Rubery to compliment the busy retail shopping area.

- 3.2 At present the Council operates the following Hackney Carriage Stands:

The Strand (outside Oceans fish bar) - Two spaces

The Bus Station - Five spaces

Hanover Street Car Park (evenings only) - Six spaces

(this rank may be affected by the town centre re-development project)

- 3.3 Members may also recall that an additional Stand was approved in June 2008 that will be positioned outside the Golden Cross Public House, High Street Bromsgrove, which would operate during the evenings only.
- 3.4 At present the Council currently licenses 79 Hackney Carriage owners, who mainly operate from the rank at the Bus Station.
- 3.5 Following meetings with the Police Authority and the Worcestershire County Council, the Highways Authority have put forward the following detailed proposals in respect of the proposed new Stands:

**Worcester Road, Bromsgrove**

- Proposed loading/unloading 7am-7pm and hackney carriage stand 7pm-7am (equivalent to 4 vehicle spaces). See Appendix 'A'. The location description is: South east side – from it's junction with Station Street for a distance of 27.4 meters in a south-westerly direction; and

**New Road Service Road, Rubery**

- Proposed hackney carriage stand operating 24 hours (equivalent to 4 vehicle spaces). See Appendix 'B'. The location description is: North side – from a point 12 meters west of the building line of number 215 for a distance of 20 meters in a westerly direction.

- 3.6 Members may wish to note that if the Traffic Regulation Orders are amended to incorporate the new rank at Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, the daytime usage of the loading bay, will prevent any long stay parking (this would also apply to Blue Badge Permit Holders) and would only be used for loading and unloading of any vehicle. If long stay parking was permitted, it could prevent goods vehicles using the lay-by and could encourage them to off-load deliveries elsewhere, possible in hazardous locations.
- 3.7 As part of the review of all Stands, it has been established that the Traffic Regulation Orders were not amended at the time when the Stands at The Strand and Market Street Bus Station were amended to permit these two locations to act as a Hackney Carriage Stand. As a result of this, the local Police are unable to take any enforcement action against illegally parked vehicles waiting on the Stands, which can cause traffic problems in the area.
- 3.8 The two Stands that require re-confirmation as follows:

**The Strand, Bromsgrove**

- This rank has been in operation for a number of years and consists of two vehicle spaces which operate 24 hours. See Appendix 'C'. The location description is: East side from a point 13.8 meters north of it's junction with Stratford Road to a point 25.5 meters, a distance of 11.7 meters in a northerly direction.

### **Market Street Bus Station, Bromsgrove**

- This rank has been in operation for a number of years and consists of five vehicle spaces which operate 24 hours. See Appendix 'D'. The location description is: East Side – from a point 17.7 meters south east of it's junction with Market Street to a point 23 meters, a distance of 5.3 meters in a southerly direction.

- 3.9 No objections have been received from the public following the publication of a notice in the Bromsgrove Standard. Formal consultation has also taken place with the local Police Authority, the Chief Constable and the Highways Authority, who have no objections to the proposals.
- 3.10 No comments have been received from the County Council with regard to the use of the Market Street Bus Station.
- 3.11 All Hackney Carriage Owners have been consulted as part of the review of Hackney Carriage Stands and would welcome additional the Stands and the ability for the Police Authority to take enforcement action against illegal parking on the existing Stands.
- 3.12 Should Members approve the detailed proposals; the Highways Authority will then be in position to start their consultation process to amend the Traffic Regulation Orders for each Stand.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The cost of the public notice and other administrative costs will be met from existing budgets held by Planning and Environment Services.
- 4.2 It is likely that funding will not be required to cover the cost of the signage and appropriate road markings for the Stands until 2010/11. In view of this it is not possible at this time to confirm that the appropriate budget will be available, however, it is hoped that the costs may be met through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- 4.3 The Highways Authority has estimated that it will cost in the region of £1,000 per Stand for road markings and signage.
- 4.4 In view of the timescales involved in completing the process of creating Hackney Carriage Stands including the amendment of the Traffic Regulation Orders, it is likely that funding will not be required until 2010/11.
- 4.5 The cost of amended the Traffic Regulation Order will be met by the Highways Authority.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Licensing Authorities have power under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to create and revoke Stands.
- 5.2 The Traffic Regulation Order would need to be amended and the Worcestershire County Council's Highways Unit have the power to do this. There is a statutory 32 week consultation period as part of the process.

## **6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 This proposal contributes to the Council's objective "Sense of community and well being".

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 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.

- 7.2 This risk is being managed as follows:

Risk Register: Planning and Environment Services

Key Objective Ref No. 7

Key Objective: Effective, efficient and legally compliant Licensing Service

## **8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 All Hackney Carriage owners will be notified in writing before the new ranks take effect and will be kept informed of progress via newsletters.

## **9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Although the proposed new rank at Worcester Road, Bromsgrove will provide additional public transport facilities, blue badge permit holders will not be permitted to park on the taxi rank and will only be permitted to park in the loading/unloading lay-by for as long as it takes to load/unload their vehicle. However, permit holders will still be able to park for up to 3 hours on the remaining single and double yellow lines in the vicinity, providing they are not causing an obstruction.

## **10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Council is working in partnership with the Police Authority and the Highways Authority to help keep costs down to a minimum.

## 11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues None
Personnel Implications None
Governance/Performance Management None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 The creation of the additional rank will help reduce crime and disorder and compliment the night time economy
Policy None
Environmental None

## 12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	<b>Yes</b>
Chief Executive	<b>Yes</b>
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	<b>No</b>
Executive Director (Services)	<b>No</b>
Assistant Chief Executive	<b>No</b>
Head of Service	<b>Yes</b>
Head of Financial Services	<b>Yes</b>
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	<b>Yes</b>
Head of Organisational Development & HR	<b>No</b>
Corporate Procurement Team	<b>No</b>

### **13. WARDS AFFECTED**

The proposed Stand at Worcester Road will be situated in the St. Johns ward.

The existing Stand at Market Street Bus Station and The Strand are situated in the St. Johns Ward.

The proposed Stand at New Road, Rubery will be situated in the Waseley Ward.

### **14. APPENDICES**

- Appendix A Location plan of the proposed Stand at Worcester Road, Bromsgrove
- Appendix B Location plan of the proposed Stand at New Road service Road, Rubery.
- Appendix C Location plan of the existing Stand at Market Street Bus Station, Bromsgrove
- Appendix D Location plan of the existing Stand at The Strand, Bromsgrove

### **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Letter of response received from the Local Police Authority
- Letter of response received on behalf of the Chief Constable
- Emails received from the Highways Authority
- Response forms received from Hackney Carriage Owners

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