

REPORT FOR DECISION

REGULATORY AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 28th November 2013

Agenda Item: 7

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REPORT OF GARETH DAVIES - PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANKS WITHIN LICHFIELD CITY CENTRE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For members to review the existing Hackney Carriage Rank provision in Lichfield City Centre.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To recommend to the Lichfield Parking Board that the 3 new ranks identified in Appendix A are created by Staffordshire County Council as a priority.
- 2.2 To recommend to the Lichfield Parking Board that the existing rank in Bore Street is adopted by Staffordshire County Council as a priority.
- 2.3 To recommend to the Lichfield Parking Board that the road between the front of the Bore Street rank and the junction with St John Street is marked with double yellow lines on both sides to prevent dangerous parking adjacent to the junction.

3. Summary of Background Information

- 3.1 In December 2008, the Regulatory and Licensing Committee undertook a review of Hackney Carriage Rank provision within the District. Four new ranks were created using the District Councils powers under the Local Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976. These were created in Bore Street and Tamworth Street Lichfield; Atherstone Street, Fazeley; and Rugeley Road, Burntwood.
- 3.2 The provision of additional ranks was considered with a view to improving the service the trade can offer, particularly bearing in mind that the taxi service forms an important part of the public transport system, especially for the elderly and less able.
- 3.3 In 2011 the Tamworth Street Rank was reduced then removed as it was not needed because the Friarsgate Development did not go ahead as planned. This development would have removed the rank at the Lichfield City Train Station, (the one most used in the day by the trade).
- 3.4 Illegal parking on the Bore Street Rank could not be enforced because members had decided not to mark it as it was in the Conservation Area. This problem was further exacerbated because Fixed Penalty Notices could not be issued through the legislation used to create the rank the only redress was prosecution through the Courts.

- 3.5 As a result members decided to request that the Lichfield Parking Board tasks the Highways Authority to adopt this rank and create a new rank in Sandford Street. The Lichfield Parking Board subsequently did this passing the following resolution in February 2011:- "That the County Council be requested to prioritise the adoption of the existing Bore Street Rank and explore the feasibility of creating of a rank outside Apres at the end of Sandford Street, Lichfield."
- 3.6 The County Council took this off the work programme recently citing confusion on what was required. They have requested that Regulatory and Licensing Committee reconfirm their requests.
- 3.7 The current rank provision in the City Centre is detailed in table 1 below.

| Location of Rank | Size (No of cars) | Hours of operation | Appointed by |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bore Street | 6 | 7 days a week 18.00hrs to 06.00hrs | Lichfield DC |
| Station Road | 3 | 7 days a week 24hrs a day | Staffordshire County Council |
| The Friary | 6 (3/3 split) | 7 days a week 00.00hrs to 07.00hrs | Staffordshire County Council |
| Bus Station (Birmingham Road) | 2 | 7 days a week 24hrs a day | Staffordshire County Council |

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| 4. Current Situation |
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- 4.1 The Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee, the Chairman of the Lichfield Parking Board, a representative of the Highway Authority and a representative of Environmental Health, considered and visited possible new or alternative sites. The sites considered appropriate and necessary are contained in Appendix A.
- 4.2 When the District Council uses its powers, Statutory Consultation has to be undertaken with:
- The Highways Authority
 - The Chief Officer of Police
 - Local bus companies
 - and generally by public advertisement.
- Additional consultation has traditionally been undertaken with Local Traders, Local Residents and the City Council.
- 4.3 No formal consultation has taken place or is proposed in this instance because the Committee is not making the decision, only recommending its views to other bodies. The County Council will consult before it makes its final decision.

- 4.4 The desire of successive Local Police Commanders has been to have several small ranks throughout the City Centre. The purpose of this is for patrons leaving Licensed establishments to get straight into Taxis and then home, reducing the risk of Crime and Disorder.
- 4.5 The ranks proposed have been selected and located :
- their proximity to Licensed premises, to serve patrons and reduce the risk of crime and disorder
 - to minimise nuisance to local residents
 - to provide adequate rank space for the trade
- 4.6 Complaints have been received from the Lichfield Civic Society, the Public and informally from the Fire Service about Taxis parking on the Bore Street, St John Street junction. Parking restrictions are proposed to prevent this as it is felt that the practice is dangerous and restricts access.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 If any changes are made there will be costs associated with signing the ranks. These costs will be met from existing budgets.

6. Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 None identified.

7. Crime and Community Safety Issues

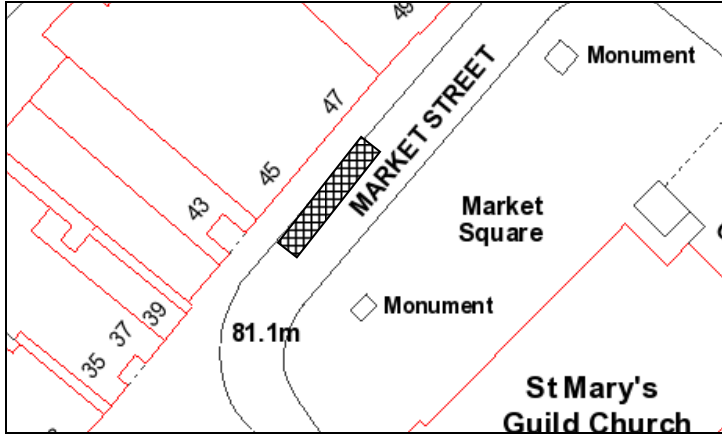
- 7.1 The increased number of taxi ranks was designed to reduce the number of people having to walk to and congregate at the existing taxi ranks after they have left licensed premises. This in turn should help reduce associated crime and antisocial behaviour by dispersing customers as soon as possible. There could also be a detrimental affect on the areas of the new rank locations were people didn't previously visit those areas. The overall benefit should be positive.

Report checked and approved:

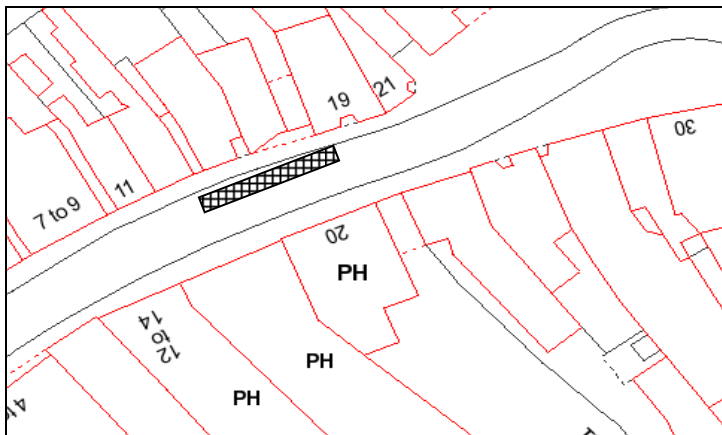
Strategic/Corporate Director

 Location of rank

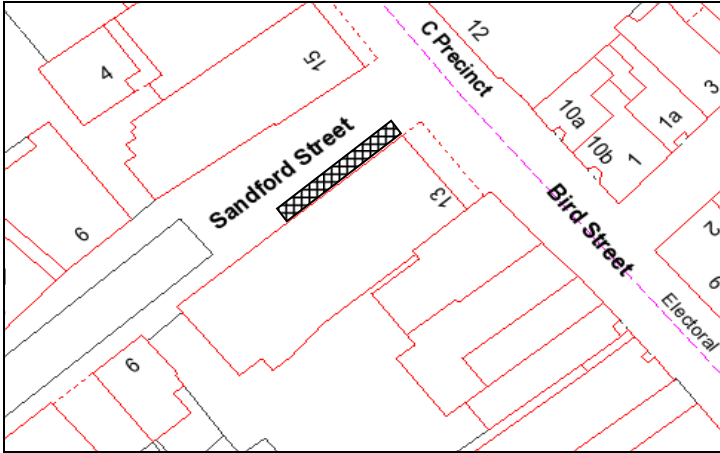
Proposed Rank Market Street- Seven days a week from 18.00hrs to 09.00hrs for 5 cars



Proposed Rank Tamworth Street -Seven days a week from 18.00hrs to 09.00hrs for 3 cars



Proposed Rank Sandford Street Seven days a week
from 18.00hrs to 09.00hrs for 3 cars



Proposed Parking Restrictions and Adoption of Bore
Street Rank

