

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of Steve Willis, Chief Operating Officer, Environment and Economy

Report to:	Regulatory and Other Committee
Date:	09 May 2016
Subject:	Lincoln - Mint Lane, Corporation Street and Clasketgate. Proposed evening taxi ranks to be introduced on existing Disabled Parking Bay, Goods Vehicle Loading Only Bay and Limited Waiting Bay.

Summary:

This report details an objection received to a proposal to convert a disabled parking bay, goods vehicle loading only bay and limited waiting bay to dual use as evening taxi ranks.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee agrees that the objection be overruled and that the order be confirmed as proposed at consultation.

Background

1.1 The evening economy in Lincoln City Centre has grown considerably over the last few years and with limited late night bus services available substantial numbers of people use taxis as a means of transport home. Private hire firms, some of which are located close to the area under consideration, provide an effective service in transporting people out of the City Centre. However at times demand for taxis is very high and additional taxi provision by the City's Hackney Carriage would be beneficial. Apart from a short section of evening only taxi rank located on Silver Street, the bulk of these taxis wait on a rank on St Mary's Street outside the train station. These are some distance from the northern area of the City Centre and are therefore not readily accessible to the numerous potential customers there.

Proposal

1.2 Proposal – In order to aid dispersion of people out of the City it is proposed to introduce additional taxi ranks at Mint Lane, Corporation Street and Clasketgate. These would apply during the evenings only on an existing disabled parking bay and limited waiting bay which are currently in force from 8am until 6pm, Monday – Saturday, and on a 'Goods Vehicle Loading Only' bay in force all day, any day. The taxi ranks would operate from 6pm until 8am, Monday – Saturday at all three locations which are illustrated at

Appendix B. After 6pm and before 8am the restrictions imposed by the disabled and limited waiting bays no longer apply so their dual use as taxi ranks should not be of detriment to their function. The proposed rank on the loading bay suspends its use for loading between 6pm and before 8am, and on Sundays. However the demand for loading at these times is minimal and should this be necessary vehicles may stop on the adjacent double yellow lines to load or unload.

Consultations

1.3 A statutory consultation and public advertisement of the proposal have been carried out. Consultees included the local County Councillors and City of Lincoln Ward Councillors; City of Lincoln Council, Police, EMAS and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue; Road Haulage Association and Freight Transport Association; local bus companies and the Lincoln Blind Society. Taxi firms operating locally were consulted as well as businesses and premises in the vicinity of the parking bays and loading bay affected. The police have confirmed their full support for the proposals, as have the local Members covering this area. The proposed changes were advertised in the local press and on site during October last year.

Objection

1.4 One objection has been received from a local private taxi hire firm. Taxi ranks may only be used by hackney carriage vehicles and the proprietor has concerns that the close proximity of those proposed on Clasketgate and Corporation Street to their premises will be in competition with and have a detrimental impact on demand for their business.

Comments

1.5 With demand for taxis during the early part of the evening being low private hire firms have an advantage over hackney carriages in terms of cost and therefore the impact of the ranks will be minimal. As demand increases for taxi provision later on current supply becomes insufficient so again, whilst hackney carriages would attract custom the impact on private hire firms will be low.

Conclusion

The bulk of the current hackney carriage provision is located on St Mary's Street which is some distance away from the area generating most demand at night, which can escalate to very high demand as the evening progresses. To support the effective management of crowds of people late at night in the City Centre it is essential that their swift departure is facilitated as soon as is practicable. This being the case the provision of additional ranks and taxi provision at the point where they are most needed will be of great benefit.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Overview of area affected.
Appendix B	Plan of proposals

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jeanne Gibson, who can be contacted on 01522 792070 or jeanne.gibson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank