

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: The Cabinet
15 September 2015

Wards:
 All Wards

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Section 63 – Alterations to
 Taxi Rank, Railway Street, Pocklington – Consultation Exercise**

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services

A. Executive Summary

A request has been received to remove the existing rank which is located at Railway Street, Pocklington.

The rank which consists of three taxi parking bays was introduced in Railway Street in 2003 and designated for taxis only. It is known from meetings with the taxi trade and licensing visits in Pocklington that the rank is not used currently as an active rank.

In line with legislative requirements, before making any changes to taxi ranks a full public consultation exercise must be carried out.

B. Corporate Priorities 2011-2015

Valuing Our Environment
 Reducing Inequalities

C. Portfolio

Community Involvement and Local Partnerships

D. Recommendation and Reason for Recommendation

That The Cabinet:

- (i) Approves the procedure and consultation for the removal of the taxi rank in Railway Street, Pocklington, as set out in the report.
- (ii) That the proposed removal be consulted on with the licensed trade for a period of 28 days following initial notification to Humberside Police
- (iii) That the removal of the rank be advertised as required under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:

- (iv) That authority be delegated by the Cabinet to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Portfolio holder, to approve the Order where there are no objections received.

Or;

- (v) any objections received following public advertisement be reported back to the Licensing Committee in November 2015 for consideration and formal approval by the Cabinet.

E. Equality Implications

There are no equality implications

1. Background

- 1.0 The area of Railway Street, Pocklington has a busy daytime economy and is heavily populated with commercial premises. During the day the centre of Pocklington is busy with shoppers and visitors to the market town.
- 1.2 The issue of the existing taxi rank has been raised with the Licensing Committee as to whether the rank could be removed to free up valuable additional parking spaces. It is recognised that the rank is not active during the day and that other vehicles regularly park in the existing marked bays. Photograph below shows the existing rank.



- 1.3 Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that for the purposes of their functions under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 that the District Council may from time to time appoint stands (ranks) for hackney carriages for the whole or any part of a day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at the public expense and, with the consent of the owner, on any land in the district which does not form part of a highway so maintainable and may from time to time vary the number of hackney carriages permitted to be at each stand.
- 1.4 Before appointing any stand for hackney carriages or varying the number of hackney carriages available at each stand, the Council is required to notify the Chief Officer of Police for the areas in which the stand will be situated.

- 1.5 The Council is required to give public notice of any proposals by advertising, in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district, and take into consideration any objections or representations received in respect of the proposal which may be made in writing within 28 days of the first publication of the notice.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 It is proposed to remove the existing taxi rank on Railway Street, Pocklington. The proposal would free up three additional parking spaces for use as considered appropriate by the Council.
- 2.2 It is known that the existing taxi rank is not actively used by hackney carriage vehicles during the day time or in the evening economy. This reflects a change in customer choice and the increase in use of pre booked private hire vehicles.

3. Costs

- 3.1 The costs of implementing these changes for the licensing authority are primarily those of officer time during the consultation process with the Police, the Highways Authority and the posting of notices at the planned locations and dealing with any objections.
- 3.2 In addition there will be the cost of the public notices in a relevant newspaper at around £200.
- 3.3 The costs for such works can be met within the existing taxi licensing budget in accordance with the legislation.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Initial informal discussions have taken place with Humberside Police and the Highways Authority and no issues have been raised. A public consultation exercise including the trade must be carried out before making any changes to existing taxi ranks. Any adverse comments received to the proposals will be fed back to the Licensing Committee for final consideration by the Cabinet.
- 4.2 The Licensing Committee considered this request at its meeting on 8 June 2015 and endorsed the request for removal of the rank in Pocklington and that consultation should take place with the local community and taxi trade.

Nigel Leighton
Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services

Contact Officer: Paul Bellotti
Head of Housing, Transportation and Public Protection
Telephone Number: 01482 396100
E.mail: paul.bellotti@eastriding.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Tina Holtby
Licensing Manager
Telephone Number: 01482 396291
E.mail: tina.holtby@eastriding.gov.uk