

Taxi Stances

Report by Director, Resources

1 Purpose of Report

To report back concerning potential alterations to / additions of and seek authority to proceed with the appointment and alteration of Taxi Stances.

2 Background

2.1 On 1 April 2014, as recommended by the Hire Car Working Group, the Committee agreed that :-

- (a) That the Stance for three Taxis in Eskview Grove, be revoked but delayed pending an investigation as regards the feasibility of appointing, instead, a Stance for three taxis on the carriageway at the east of the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield;
- (b) That the Stance for two Taxis at High Street Penicuik, be retained and re-marked;
- (c) That the Stance for two Taxis at Imrie Place Penicuik, be not replaced;
- (d) That the feasibility of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street / Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis, be investigated;
- (e) That the appointment of the Stance for two Taxis at Edinburgh Road, Penicuik, be revoked;
- (f) That the Stance for seven Taxis at Polton Street, Bonnyrigg, be retained and re-marked;
- (g) That the feasibility of appointing a Stance at the Community Hospital at Hardengreen, be investigated;
- (h) That the commencement date for the Stance adjacent to the Supermarket in Eskbank Road, Dalkeith be 16 May 2014; and, with reference to paragraph 5(c) of the Minutes of 7 October 2008, having noted that the physical layout of the site had changed and the stance had been reduced in size by the Developer, to vary the appointment by reducing the number of taxis to six, subject to public consultation; and

- (i) That, in respect of the Stance at Lothian Street / Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, the feasibility of it (1) being monitored by CCTV directly to improve visibility and public safety, be investigated; and (2) in respect of the reports of frequent disturbances in the early hours of the morning at weekends which prevented safe access by Taxi Drivers, the cooperation of the Police be sought in an endeavour to control the area and achieve a reduction in bad behaviour.

2.2 Progress

Progress has been made as follows:-

- (a) **Revocation of Stance for three Taxis in Eskview Grove, but delayed pending an investigation as regards the feasibility of appointing, instead, a Stance for three taxis on the carriageway at the east of the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield** - informal discussion suggests that it would not be feasible to site the Stance at the roundabout. This site was considered some time ago and it was rejected for road safety reasons. This will be considered in more detail by Roads Services in due course;
- (b) **Stance for two Taxis at High Street Penicuik, be retained and re-marked** – the stance will be (signed and) re-marked when the next road marking operation takes place;
- (c) **the Stance for two Taxis at Imrie Place Penicuik, be not replaced** – no further action needed;
- (d) **That the feasibility of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street / Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis, be investigated** – This will be considered in more detail by Roads Services in due course however, there is no budget for this and it will not be possible to progress the proposal unless a budget provision is made;
- (e) **That the appointment of the Stance for two Taxis at Edinburgh Road, Penicuik, be revoked** – the stance has been re-marked in error but that will be rectified;
- (f) **That the Stance for seven Taxis at Polton Street, Bonnyrigg, be retained and re-marked** – the works will be carried out when road marking operations are being carried at that location ;
- (g) **That the feasibility of appointing a Stance at the Community Hospital at Hardengreen, be investigated** – initial contact has been made with the Clinician in Charge and information is awaited ;
- (h) **The Stance adjacent to the Supermarket in Eskbank Road, Dalkeith** – it is now operational;

- (i) That, in respect of the Stance **at Lothian Street / Buccleuch**
- (j) **Street, Dalkeith, the feasibility of it (1) being monitored by CCTV directly to improve visibility and public safety, be investigated; and (2) in respect of the reports of frequent disturbances in the early hours of the morning at weekends which prevented safe access by Taxi Drivers, the cooperation of the Police be sought in an endeavour to control the area and achieve a reduction in bad behaviour** – CCTV at this location is fixed and cannot be adapted without additional resource.

Before appointing any stance for taxis, the licensing authority shall give notice to the chief constable and shall also give public notice of the proposal by advertisement in at least one newspaper circulating in their area and shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposal which may be made to them in writing within 28 days of the first publication of such notice.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

3.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

There are implications arising directly from this report.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Hire Car Associations were consulted.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

4 Summary

Before appointing any stance for taxis, the licensing authority shall give notice to the chief constable and shall also give public notice of the proposal by advertisement in at least one newspaper circulating in their area and shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposal which may be made to them in writing within 28 days of the first publication of such notice.

In respect of the Stance at Buccleuch Street / Lothian Street, Dalkeith, suggestions were made as regards potential improvements to make it more effective. Formal prior consultation with the Police and Roads Services is necessary in order to investigate the feasibility of this; and test the viability of appointing a stance at the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield and the Community Hospital. A report back will be made prior to any action being taken.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:-

(1) as regards the appointment of the Stance for three Taxis in Eskview Grove, be revoked and the feasibility of appointing a Stance for three taxis at the east side of the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield be investigated, consider whether any further action should be taken in this respect;

(2) as regards the feasibility of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis be investigated; consider whether any further action should be taken;

(3) as regards the Stance at Lothian Street, Dalkeith and the feasibility of it (a) being monitored by CCTV directly to improve visibility and public safety, be investigated; and (b) the cooperation of the Police be sought in an endeavour to control the area and achieve a reduction in bad behaviour, in respect of the reports of frequent disturbances in the early hours of the morning at weekends which prevented safe access by Taxi Drivers - consider whether any further action should be taken in this respect; and

(4) otherwise note the report.

Date 28 October 2014

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Background Papers: report of meeting held on 13 March 2014