

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.

2.1 Background

On 11 November 2014, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to continue consideration of (the proposed revocation of the appointment of the Stance for three Taxis in Eskview Grove and) the feasibility of appointing a Stance for three taxis at the east side of the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield;

(2) to request that costings be obtained as regards the feasibility of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis and the feasibility of it being monitored by CCTV directly to improve visibility and public safety.

2.2 On 1 April 2014, as recommended by the Hire Car Working Group, the Committee agreed *inter alia* that :-

(a) An investigation be carried out 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 feasibility be investigated of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street / Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis; and it being monitored by CCTV directly to improve visibility and public safety, also 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 Police View

The comments of the Police are awaited.

2.3 Update

As regards the physical adaptations are concerned:-

- (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** - Officer discussion confirms that it would not be feasible to site the Stance at the roundabout as shown in **Appendix 1**. The site is adjacent to and overlooks dwelling-houses, is underworked by cabling which would be difficult to relocate and is not readily capable of adaptation. This site was considered some time ago and it was rejected for road safety reasons as being too close to the junction. In addition, there is no budget for such expenditure, which, if required would amount to £12,000 - £15,000;
- (b) **The feasibility of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street / Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis to allow two vehicles to pass, be investigated** – it has been established that this is feasible ie capable of being achieved by the complete removal of the central reservation but retaining the street lights and undertaking appropriate road marking. However, there is no budget for the proposed works which would cost about £10,000; and
- (c) In respect of the Stance **at Lothian Street / Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith**, the CCTV at this location is fixed and cannot be adapted. In addition, whilst the current installation is monitored on occasion, without additional resource for which there is also no provision in the budget, there is little prospect of the work being undertaken soon. The estimated cost of providing a new facility is about £15,000.

Appointment of Stances

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 resource implications arising directly from this report, as set out above.

3.2 Risk

There are risk implications arising directly from this report, including those relating to the public safety concerns that have been expressed; and any danger created by Taxis manoeuvring on the Stance.

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 no 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 implications arising directly from this report.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Taxi Owners' Association 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.

There are very real resource implications in relation to the cost of the alterations / new provision.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (1) Agree no further action as regards the possible of appointment of the Stance for three taxis at the east side of the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield;
- (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, taking cognisance that no budget is available; and
- (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, consider whether any further action should be taken in this respect, taking cognisance that no budget is available.

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Report Contact:

Name Bob Atack Tel No 0131 271 3161
atackb@midlothian.gov.uk