

Taxi Stances

Report by Director, Resources

1 Purpose of Report

To seek authority to proceed with the appointment, alteration and revocation of Taxi Stances.

2 Background

2.1 On 13 March 2014, at a Meeting of the Hire Car Working Group, the representatives of the Taxi Owners' Association suggested that:-

- (i) the appointment of the Stance for three Taxis in Eskview Grove, be revoked and, instead, appointed at the east side of the roundabout at Bogwood Road, Mayfield;
- (ii) the Stance for two Taxis at High Street Penicuik, be re-marked;
- (iii) the replacement of the appointment of the Stance for two Taxis at Imrie Place Penicuik, which had been revoked, be not pursued;
- (iv) the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street Dalkeith, be altered to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis;
- (v) the appointment of the Stance for two Taxis at Edinburgh Road Penicuik, be revoked;
- (vi) the Stance for seven Taxis at Polton Street Bonnyrigg, be re-marked;
- (vii) Stances be appointed at the Community Hospital at Hardengreen; and Morrison's Supermarket, Eskbank Road, Dalkeith;
- (vii) the Stance at Lothian Street, Dalkeith (1) be monitored by CCTV directly as the current provision was unsatisfactory owing to lack of visibility, etc; and (2) in respect 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; and
- (ix) a Stance at the Community Hospital be provided.

It is incumbent on the Council as Licensing Authority to review the stances from time to time. 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

The feedback from the Trade side was that generally speaking, the Stances described at (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) had not been not used which led to the conclusion that, with the exception of (ii), they should not continue in use. Instead of the existing stance in Mayfield another at the roundabout on Bogwood Road was considered better.

On 7 October 2008, the Committee, having noted that public notice had been given of the proposal to site a Taxi Stance with the hours of operation restricted to between 5.00am and 11.00pm daily in Eskbank Road, Dalkeith, at the Supermarket Development, and there had been no objections, agreed to continue consideration of the commencement date pending receipt of further information as regards the opening of the store.

The opening of the store is imminent and plans are in place to provide the facility. The suggested commencement date of the new stance is 16 May 2014.

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

The various other comments which were made in respect of the Stance in Lothian Street Dalkeith will also be considered in consultation with the Police and Roads Services.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree that:-

- (a) 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;
- (b) the Stance for two Taxis at High Street Penicuik, be retained and re-marked;
- (c) the Stance for two Taxis at Imrie Place Penicuik, be not replaced;
- (d) the feasibility of altering the Stance for fifteen Taxis at Lothian Street Dalkeith, to facilitate the manoeuvring of Taxis be investigated;
- (e) the appointment of the Stance for two Taxis at Edinburgh Road Penicuik, be revoked;
- (f) the Stance for seven Taxis at Polton Street Bonnyrigg, be retained and re-marked;
- (g) the feasibility of appointing a Stances at the Community Hospital at Hardengreen be investigated;
- (h) the commencement date for the Stance adjacent to the Supermarket in Eskbank Road, Dalkeith be 16 May 2014; and
- (j) in respect of the Stance at Lothian Street, Dalkeith, the feasibility of it (1) being monitored by CCTV directly to improve visibility and public safety, be investigated; and (2) 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

Date 24 March 2014

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Background Papers: report of meeting held on 13 March 2014

Declaration Box

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Title of Report:

Meeting Presented to:

Author of Report:

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☐ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.*
- ☐ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

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Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.