

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Monday 22nd April 2013
3.	Title:	Rotherham Town Centre experimental night time taxi ranks
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To seek authority to promote an experimental traffic regulation order to implement additional night time hackney carriage ranks on Moorgate Street and High Street in Rotherham town centre.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet Member resolves to: -

- (a) Request that the Head of Legal Service promotes an experimental traffic regulation order the effect of which would be to introduce night time taxi ranks on High Street and Moorgate Street for 18 months from the date of implementation.**
 - (b) Request the Head of Legal Service makes the order permanent provided that no objections are received.**
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7. Proposals and Details

Representatives of the Hackney Carriage Association and owners of some of the late night entertainment establishments near the Town Hall have requested that the Council gives consideration to additional taxi ranking space on High Street, Moorgate Street and The Crofts to satisfy the night time demand for taxis.

Colleagues in taxi licensing have agreed that the ranks would be beneficial from a road safety point of view as vehicles are currently 'trawling' for kerb space leading to sporadic obstruction of the highway.

Following discussions with local Ward Members, representatives of the Hackney Carriage Association, Private Hire companies and drivers it has been agreed to progress an experimental traffic order the effect of which will be to create further hackney carriage ranks on Moorgate Street and High Street as shown on drawing no. 126/18/TT591 attached at Appendix 'A'. The order would be effective for 18 months from implementation with the Director of Streetpride having the power to amend or suspend as appropriate should there be unforeseen issues. As part of the proposal the existing rank in front of the Imperial buildings will be suspended (a similar size rank will be effective on the opposite side of High Street).

South Yorkshire Police have offered their support for the proposal.

8. Finance

The cost of implementing an experimental order will be in the region of £3,500 and will be funded from Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport programme.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Due to the limited width of the carriageway on The Crofts it has not been possible to implement a taxi rank on The Crofts and consequently there could still be instances where private hire vehicles and hackney carriages ply for trade which could cause an obstruction of the highway; this will be closely monitored by Streetpride and licensing officers.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This initiative is in line with the Council's objectives of achieving safer roads and also accord with the Equalities Policy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Extensive consultation has been completed with representatives of the Hackney Carriage Association, representatives of the Private Hire drivers and operators, South Yorkshire Police and local Ward Members.

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