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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL**

Licensing Committee

Date: Tuesday, 13th September, 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Place: Committee Room 6 - Civic Suite

Contact: Tim Row - Principal Democratic Services Officer

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A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022**
(Pages 1 - 4)
- 4 Revocation of Taxi Stand on Weston Road Southend-on-Sea**
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TO: The Chair & Members of the Licensing Committee:

Councillor A Thompson (Chair)

Councillors M Berry (Vice-Chair), B Beggs, M Borton, S Buckley, A Dear, K Evans,
N Folkard, A Jones, J Lamb, A Line, K Mitchell, I Shead, M Terry and C Walker

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Licensing Committee

Date: Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022
Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

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Present: Councillor A Thompson (Chair)
Councillors K Mitchell (Vice-Chair), M Berry, S Buckley, T Cowdrey,
K Evans, N Folkard, T Harp, J Lamb, A Line, D McGlone, A Moring
and I Shead

In Attendance: A Penn, E Anakwue and T Row

Start/End Time: 10.00 am - 10.35 am

848 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

849 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lamb declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 5 (Temporary Increase to Taxi Fares) on the basis that he was on the board of trustees of SAVS, which was mentioned in the debate.

850 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 16th August, 2021

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 16th August 2021 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

851 Age of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) which sought approval to the temporary, one year amendment of the licensing conditions relating to the age of Hackney Carriages (HC) Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) at the stage of first licensing (from the date of amendment), whereby the 5-year age limit (6-year age limit for wheelchair accessible vehicles) is disapplied, and, to permanently require the application of compliance with Euro 6 emission standards that reduces harmful emissions from vehicles within the conditions.

The intention of these changes is to increase the number of vehicles available to the public by enabling more vehicles to be licensable, and to protect air quality and assist to the climate change agenda.

Resolved:-

1. That the amended age-related conditions as set out below be approved for a 1-year period from the date of this decision, after which time the conditions will

automatically revert to their former wording, or until adoption of any new conditions relating to vehicles are introduced, whichever is the sooner:

Proposed Conditions for Hackney Carriages

2.1.1(a) Where a vehicle is more than 5 years old when first licenced (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles 6 years), the vehicle must be Euro 6 emission rating (petrol or diesel vehicles) or capable of achieving zero emissions (hybrid or electric vehicles). All vehicles should not be more than 10-years old when subsequently licenced (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles 20 years). The 10-year maximum is based on the condition of the vehicle which is considered at 8 years and can be extended by 6-month intervals to a maximum of 10 years. Any limousine or specially approved vehicle shall have no specific age limit and will be reviewed annually.

Proposed Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles

1.1.2 Where a vehicle is more than 5 years old when first licenced (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles 6 years), the vehicle must be Euro 6 emission rating (petrol or diesel vehicles) or capable of achieving zero emissions (hybrid or electric vehicles). All vehicles should not be more than 10-years old when subsequently licenced (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles 20 years). The 10-year maximum is based on the condition of the vehicle which is considered at 8 years and can be extended by 6-month intervals to a maximum of 10 years. Any limousine or specially approved vehicle shall have no specific age limit and will be reviewed annually.

2. That the additional requirement relating to emission standards as set out in the amended conditions be permanently adopted.

852 Temporary Increase to Taxi Fares

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) that sought approval of the temporary amendment of the fare structure of Hackney Carriages (HC) Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) for a period of one year (from the date of amendment) after which it will be reviewed, or until the review of all licensing conditions is completed, in response the current fuel price emergency.

It was noted that the intention of these changes was to maintain the number of vehicles available to the public by ensuring drivers vehicles are financially viable.

In response to questions regarding the consultation process, the Council's Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that in addition to the statutory requirement to place a public notice in the local paper, a copy of the notice would be placed on the notice board in the reception area of the Civic Centre and placed on the Council's website. He also undertook to inform SAVS (Southend Association of Voluntary Services) and the Citizens Advice Bureau of the outcome of the consultation.

Resolved:-

1. That the fare structure of Hackney Carriages (HC) Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) be temporarily amended to allow a temporary additional fare of 40p per trip.

2. That the revised fare chart set out at Appendix 1 be approved.

3. That any changes to the fare and extra charges' structure be duly advertised, implementing the public consultation process. Any appeals will be heard by the Licensing Committee. In the eventuality that no objections are received, the amendment be deemed as approved without the need to return to the Committee for consideration. To avoid the requirement not to consult during the local election purdah period, the consultation will commence on 6th May 2022 or later.

Chair: _____

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Southend-on-Sea City Council
Report of Executive Director
(Neighbourhoods and Environment)
To
Licensing Committee
On
13 September 2022

**Agenda
Item No.**

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Report prepared by: Elizabeth Georgeou
Head of Regulatory Services

Revocation of Taxi Stand on Weston Road Southend-on-Sea

A Part 1 Public Agenda item

1. Purpose of Report

To approve the revocation of the taxi stand on the westbound carriageway of Weston Road Southend-on-Sea and authorise the commencement of the statutory consultation process.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Licensing Committee considers revoking the taxi-stand in Weston Road and duly advertises the proposal, implementing the statutory public consultation process.**
- 2.2 Any objections or representations made to the statutory consultation process will be heard by the Licensing Committee.**
- 2.3 Where no objections or representations are received it is proposed that the revocation of the taxi stand in Weston Road be approved without the need to return to Committee.**

3. Background

To improve the accessibility to the town centre it is proposed that the taxi stand in Weston Road, which is not used extensively, be revoked. This is to provide space for additional disabled parking in the proximity of the High Street.

The High Street would still be served by the following taxi stands:

- The stub end of London Road as it abuts the High Street
- Chichester Road
- Tylers Avenue
- High Street
- Heygate Avenue
- Elmer Avenue

These stands support those who are unable to drive or access public transport. They provision of stands also supports the night-time economy and the safe egress of visitors from the town centre.

Appendix 1 shows the current location of the taxi stand on Weston Road marked in red and pink.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 If the Council were to do nothing, the stand would remain largely unused and there would be no increase in the availability of disabled parking in the proximity of the High Street in the centre of Southend.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

To increase the accessibility to the town centre through the provision of additional disabled parking spaces in this location.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The Council's outcome delivery plan is to be connected and smart facilitating a wide choice of transport that improves accessibility and mobility to all residents. The removal of this taxi stand provides space for the installation of additional disabled parking spaces.

6.2 Financial Implications

The removal of the taxi stand will be undertaken at the same time as the works to re-line the road at this location.

6.3 Legal Implications

The provision for revoking taxi stands for hackney carriage vehicles is contained in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 63.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

The trade associations for hackney carriage were consulted with on 19 August 2022, and their agreement was given to the revocation of this stand. The statutory consultation will be instigated, and outcomes considered. If there are objections or representations made to the revocation of this stand the matter will be referred back to the Licensing Committee for their consideration.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

There were no adverse equalities issues identified in respect of this proposal because customers can be dropped at their required location. There is also another rank within 40 metres of this stand, in close proximity to the High Street.

There are positive outcomes for those who may have difficulty in travelling on public transport identified in the Equalities Assessment.

6.8 Risk Assessment

That the stand in Weston Road will remain largely unused and an opportunity to increase the parking for those with mobility issues will be missed.

6.9 Value for Money

Undertaking these works at the time that the road is scheduled for re-lining is a cost-effective way of removing this stand.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

This stand is not well used, and there are additional taxi stands available in proximity to the High Street, these stands facilitate the safe egress from the town centre, supporting the night-time economy.

6.11 Environmental Impact

None

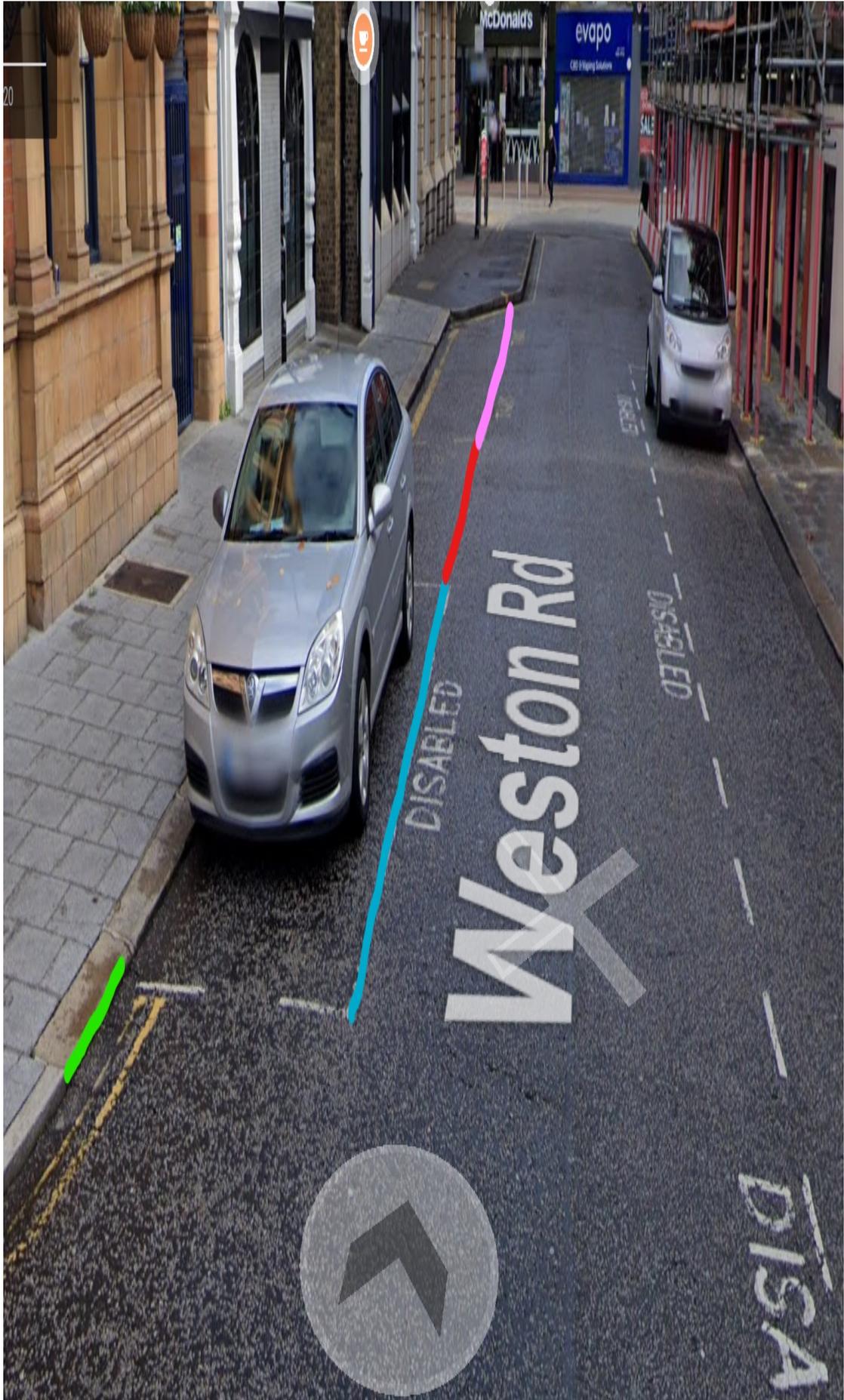
7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 shows the current location of the taxi stand on Weston Road, Southend-on-Sea and where the disabled parking will be located.

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