

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Report of the Executive Director
(Neighbourhoods and the Environment)
To
Licensing Sub Committee C
On
4th June 2020

**Agenda
Item No.**

Report prepared by: Adam Penn,
Regulatory Services Manager

Revocation and Installation of Taxi Stands in London Road, Southend-on-Sea
Chair Licensing Committee C: Councillor Helen McDonald

“A Part 1 Public Agenda item.”

1. Purpose of Report

To initiate the statutory consultation on the revocation of the taxi stand on London Road in Southend-on-Sea, located at the ‘dead end’ where London Road (from College Way) meets the High Street at Victoria Circus.

To initiate the statutory consultation on the adoption of a new taxi stand further back on the same side of London Road on the other side of the Private Road. This stand will measure 43.5m again in 2 lanes (25.5m+18m) and extend around the end point of London Road, split into 5 marked areas (3.2m+5m+1.7m+5.5m+14m). In addition on the opposite side of London Road a ‘Taxi pick up only - For disabled users’ area will be designated (22.5m). This proposal includes a ‘KEEP CLEAR’ section as it is required to be kept clear for emergency access at all times. The entire new layout totals 95.4m and is shown in purple on the plan in **Appendix 1**. To operate as a taxi stand 24 hours a day

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Licensing Committee enables the statutory consultation process to commence on the revocation of the existing taxi stand on London Road, located at the ‘dead end’ where London Road (from College Way) meets the High Street at Victoria Circus.**
- 2.2 That the Licensing Committee enables the statutory consultation process to commence on the adoption of a taxi stand located on London Road, further back on the same side of London Road on the other side of the Private Road. This stand will measure 43.5m again in 2 lanes (25.5m+18m) and extend around the end point of London Road, split into 5 marked areas (3.2m+5m+1.7m+5.5m+14m). In addition on the opposite side of London Road a ‘Taxi pick up only - for disabled users’ area will be designated (22.5m). This proposal includes a ‘KEEP CLEAR’ section as it is required to be kept clear for emergency access at all times. The entire new layout totals 95.4m and will operate as a taxi stand 24 hours a day**

- 2.3 **That in the event that there are no objections received as a result of the consultation, the stand is relocated in accordance with the specifications laid out in 2.1 and 2.2 above without the need to revert back to the Licensing Committee.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Sunrise Project is part of the larger Southend Central Area Transport Scheme (S-CATS), a Local Growth Fund Scheme and was approved by Cabinet on Tuesday, 25th February, 2020, Minute No: 858. The purpose of the scheme is to take forward aspects of transport and public realm infrastructure that are seen as necessary to support both housing and employment growth in the Town Centre. The Sunrise aspect of S-CATS is focussed on the area where London Road (from College Way) meets the High Street and into Victoria Circus. The intention to pedestrianise this area necessitates the relocation of the taxi stand
- 3.2 The current and proposed locations of the taxi stands are detailed in Appendix 1.

4. Other Options

Leave the taxi stand in the current location or investigate an alternative area to locate it.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

The relocation of the taxi stand is part of the intended outcome of the Sunrise project and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires a consultation takes place before any works are undertaken.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The vibrancy and evolution of Southend town centre is a 2050 outcome under the Opportunity and Prosperity theme.

The relocation of the taxi stand in this area supports the commercial operation of the High Street and a thriving night time economy. The schemes support the connected and smart 2050 outcome of making it easier for people to get around the Borough using sustainable transport.

Safer transport from night time activities may contribute to the feeling of safety for individuals in the town, and underpins the Safe and Well 2050 objective.

6.2 Financial Implications

The revocation and installation of the taxi stand in London Road will be met within the Sunrise project funding.

6.3 Legal Implications

The provisions for revoking and installing taxi stands for hackney carriage vehicles are contained in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 63. There is a requirement for a statutory consultation to be undertaken.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

There is a statutory 28 day consultation process required by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In addition to this statutory consultation 'Sunrise' has consulted different stakeholder groups, including the taxi trade groups, at a multitude of events since 2017.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

An assessment will be undertaken at the conclusion of the statutory consultation.

6.8 Risk Assessment

The relocation of this taxi stand is a small part of the transportation strategy and objectives. It specifically supports the connected and smart objective by connecting the stations to the High Street with sustainable transport.

6.9 Value for Money

The use of the relocated taxi stand connecting people from other areas to the High Street supports the intended outcome of the Sunrise project to increase footfall into the town centre thereby supporting the local economy.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

There are no specific changes to community safety as the location of the proposed new stand is so close to the existing one.

6.11 Environmental Impact

None

7. Background Papers

Cabinet Report - Southend Central Area Transport Scheme, 25th February 2020.
Minute No: 858

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Plan showing the current and proposed locations of the taxi stands.