

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director for Neighbourhoods and Environment

To

Licensing Committee C

On

23 July 2020

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Agenda Item No.

**Revocation and Installation of Taxi Stand outside Southend Hospital
Chair Licensing Committee C: Councillor Helen McDonald**

A Part 1 Public Agenda item

1. Purpose of Report

To revoke the taxi stand outside Southend Hospital on the eastbound carriage way of Prittlewell Chase and install a split taxi stand on the opposite westbound carriageway.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Licensing Committee considers if the proposed resiting of the stand of Prittlewell Chase should proceed taking into account the responses to the public consultation.

2.2 To revoke the taxi stand on Prittlewell Chase which extends from the end of the zebra crossing zig zags opposite numbers 218-220 Prittlewell Chase heading in an eastwards for a distance of 78m.

2.3 Install a taxi stand on the opposite carriageway on the southwest side of Prittlewell Chase, which allows resident access via drop kerbs this stand will be split into 5 sections and laid out as follows:

From a point 6.7 metres west of the common boundary of Nos. 184 and 186 Prittlewell Chase to a point 7.8 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 186 and 188 Prittlewell Chase.

From a point 3.5 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 180 and 182 Prittlewell Chase to a point 8.6 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 180 and 182 Prittlewell Chase.

From a point 5.1 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 176 and 178 Prittlewell Chase to a point 5.7 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 178 and 180 Prittlewell Chase.

From a point 4 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 172 and 174 Prittlewell Chase to a point 4.9 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 174 and 176 Prittlewell Chase.

From a point 4.9 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 168 and 170 Prittlewell Chase to a point 5.6 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 172 and 170 Prittlewell Chase.

All sections of the new stand(s) proposed above will operate between 08.00 and 20.00 daily.

3. Background

In September 2019, at the request of the bus companies, the Council approved the decision to move the taxi stand to its current location and to move the bus stop further west on Prittlewell Chase. The proposal was adopted because of the risk to passenger safety from passengers who were dismounting from the buses in the outside lane.

There is still congestion at this location with the two busiest times for the car parking queuing being Monday to Friday from around 08.30 – 11.00 and from 13.00 – 15.00. the queues are from cars trying to enter entrance 4 (the eastern entrance). The cars entering the car park are queuing into the outside lane, preventing other vehicles passing and blocking the taxis from entering and leaving the stand. This congestion has a negative effect on the local network, forcing vehicles to use local roads rather than the main distributor which may have a detrimental impact on the local air quality.

The Hospital have confirmed that that the works that they are undertaking on the internal layout of the car parking areas is likely to be completed by summer 2021. It is their intention to use the same entrance to the Hospital that they are currently using.

To assist with the traffic flow at this location, which also has traffic from three schools at the busiest times, the Hospital have said that they would implement some additional controls including:

- no stopping in the first car park area, to reduce the time people are queuing to get in.
- create a slip road within the Hospital grounds so that cars can queue there, rather than into the road.
- their current plans also provide for a different exit from the Hospital grounds with cars being able to move within the Hospital site to the different car parks without exiting the site.

The Hospital also provides staff car parking on site. The Hospital have advised that their administration staff have already moved to a different site and that staff members now have different working patterns, with staggered start and finish times. These measures will reduce the impact on the entrance at the busiest time.

Appendix 1 shows the current location of the taxi stand on Prittlewell Chase and the proposed location of the taxi stand on the opposite side on Prittlewell Chase.

The statutory consultation (**Appendix 2**) for the revocation and adoption of the arrangements proposed in **Appendix 1** has been completed representations are detailed in 6.6.

4. Other Options

4.1 If the Council were to do nothing, the congestion would continue in this area.

4.2 If the Committee adopts the proposed change in location of the taxi stand it may consider the proposal by the ward Councillors that the time the taxi stand is in operation is limited to between 8.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday.

- 4.3 If the Committee adopts the proposed change it may wish to consider undertaking to review the taxi stand location within three months of the Hospital Administration notifying the Authority that all works on the internal traffic system within the Hospital Grounds have been completed.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

To reduce the congestion along Prittlewell Chase by enabling the traffic entering the car park to queue in the inside lane, where the taxi stand is currently located. To reduce the impact on the passengers of the buses, the timetabling of which is adversely affected by this congestion and subsequent delays for passengers along this route.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The Council's outcome delivery plan is to be connected and smart and intends to establish joined up transport across the town. The use of the single entrance by the Hospital to enter the car parks and the location of the taxi stand outside the Hospital entrance along Prittlewell Chase causes congestion and delays in bus journeys. The proposal has been made following representations by the transport companies and complaints by the taxi trade and residents regarding this congestion.

The re-siting of the taxi stand will enable all drivers to enter the Hospital via the gap in the central reservation and not add to queueing traffic along Prittlewell Chase. The proposed location enables taxis to filter onto the private stand within the Hospital grounds. The accessibility of taxis forms part of the strategy for supporting access for residents to hospital services.

6.2 Financial Implications

The cost of the installation of the taxi stand at the Hospital will be met by revenue accounts.

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. The statutory consultation required by the Act has been completed.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

4 responses were received, two of which was received from the same resident, opposing the proposals. One response was received from one of the bus companies supporting the proposal.

Ward Councillors proposed an amendment to the timing of the rank from daily 8am until 8pm to 8am until 5pm.

Details of the consultation and the responses are contained in **Appendix 2**.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

There were no adverse equalities issues identified in respect of this proposal. There are positive outcomes for those who may have difficulty in travelling on public transport, or not have a car which have been identified in the Equalities Assessment.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Failure to implement the change will result in continued difficulties with congestion in the area, and continue to delay for passengers using the bus transport services, and those attending the hospital for appointments or for work. Improvement in air quality is related to traffic moving, rather than queuing in this area.

6.9 Value for Money

The option selected was a solution which could be undertaken relatively quickly with low impact to pedestrians and motorists. All other options considered would cost a significant amount of money with little or no budget to cover it.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

None

6.11 Environmental Impact

None

6. Background Papers

Minute 292 Revocation and Installation of Taxi Stand outside Southend Hospital Licensing Sub-Committee C 5 September 2019.

Minute 804 Revocation and Installation of Taxi Stand outside Southend Hospital Licensing Committee C 13 February 2020.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 shows the current location of the taxi stand on Prittlewell Chase and the proposed location of the taxi stand on the opposite side of Prittlewell Chase.

Appendix 2: Results of statutory consultation.