

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

Report prepared by: Elizabeth Georgeou
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**Agenda
Item No.**

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.