

**Subject:** Increase from 4 to 8 spaces –  
Hackney Carriage Stand: Kay  
Street, Rawtenstall

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** Licensing Committee

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007

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**Report of:** Head of Planning, Legal and Democratic Services

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**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council

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**Key Decision:** No

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the current provision of the authorised Hackney Carriage Stand on Kay Street in the Town Centre of Rawtenstall.
- 1.2 To request that the Committee agree to the reinstatement of the Taxi Stand from 4 licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles to 8 licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
  - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)

**3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

**4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Borough of Rossendale is obliged to licence Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers and Vehicles and Private Hire Operators under the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976.
- 4.2 Hackney Carriages are the oldest form of public transport and are recognised as an important part of the overall transport infrastructure of the country, Hackney Carriages are allowed to ply for hire in the street or other public places

and indeed, by virtue of the bye-laws within the Borough of Rossendale, are obliged to return to a Hackney Carriage stand after completing each hire.

- 4.3 A consequence of this is that the Local Authority are obliged to provide Hackney Carriage stands within the Borough and it is prudent to provide a number of stands in ratio to the number of Hackney Carriages licensed in the Borough.
- 4.4 If a stand, at the time of arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, the Hackney Carriage must proceed to another stand.
- 4.5 In March 2005 Rossendale Borough Council gave notice in pursuant to Section 63 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 to amend the Kay street taxi stand from 8 licensed taxis to 4 but did not specify which 4.
- 4.6 This has caused some confusion to the trade and private car users, the latter of which have been parking at will in this area. Enforcement is impossible due to the contradicting traffic regulation orders. Parkwise are unable to issue fixed penalty notices due to this and the police cannot legally enforce the specified area either.
- 4.7 Recently, the Haslingden Taxi Trade Association has requested that the stand be amended from 4 licensed taxis to 8 licensed taxis. Hackney carriages are currently attempting to get onto the rank but are finding this difficult due to the private cars parking on here. On 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007, Rossendale Borough Council had 160 licensed Hackney Carriages, this number fluctuates. There are currently 57 stands for Hackney Carriages.
- 4.8 During the spring and summer of 2006 both the Rossendale and Haslingden Taxi Association representatives highlighted issues relating to the inadequate numbers of taxi stands within the Town centre of Rawtenstall. In particular they requested that the Hackney Carriage stand on Kay Street be re-instated to 8 licensed taxis and that a 24 hour stands be introduced on Bank Street and James Street within the town centre of Rawtenstall.
- 4.9 These issues have been addressed jointly with Lancashire County Council and the subsequent decisions are supported by the Licensing Unit. For operational reasons there will be no additional taxi stands on Bank Street and James Street in Rawtenstall due partly to the proposed re-development of the Valley Centre.
- 4.10 Lancashire County Council and officers within Parkwise offer the following comments:
- **Bank Street:** This location is currently congested due to the new traffic signals at the junction of Bank Street and St Mary's Way. To allow taxis to park during the working day on the existing evening stand would increase this congestion. Opposite the stand is a bus stop used frequently by Double Decker buses. Add to this delivery vehicles going about their normal activities the implementation of a 24 hour stand would add to an already extremely congested town centre street.

- **James Street:** This location currently has 5 spaces which are controlled through a limited waiting restriction. These limited waiting spaces are required to enable persons to visit nearby businesses. It is situated directly opposite funeral directors who require kerb space to park the hearse and one or more accompanying limousines for use during funerals (sometimes a horse drawn carriage). The location is considered inappropriate as there could be potential congestion with the movements of a funeral entourage and the additional movements of taxis, there are several reports that a number of taxis using the James Street restricted parking bay for comfort breaks, the vehicles / drivers allegedly owned / employed by a taxi company situated on James street next door to the funeral directors, these reports are of concern to the Rossendale Borough Council's contracted car parking attendants.
- **Kay Street:** This location has the full support of the Licensing Unit, Lancashire County Council and Parkwise. However there is currently a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place in this location. The TRO is being revised by LCC. At the Transport Management Liaison Group on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007, Rossendale Borough Council were notified that the legal procedures to remove TRO (limited waiting on Kay Street) are going ahead with an implementation date within approximately 2 months of 05<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Once complete, the Kay Street Hackney Carriage stand can be legal enforced. There is currently no enforcement as explained above.
- **For information:** There are 2 authorised taxi stands In Lord Street, Rawtenstall Town Centre used by the taxi trade when visiting the Licensing Unit.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

5.1 There are no specific financial implications.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

6.1 There are no specific legal implications.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

7.1 There are no specific Human Resources Implications.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 To re-instate the Kay Street taxi stand from 4 to 8 licensed taxis at Kay Street, Rawtenstall in the Town Centre will support the Licensing Unit, the Police and the Taxi Trade to promote Anti-Crime and Disorder objectives, and in doing so will assist the general public at large.

## **9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

9.1 To authorise the Council under Section 63 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to appoint a Hackney Carriage Stand for 8 licensed taxis at Kay Street, Rawtenstall.

## 10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- Haslingden Taxi Association
- Lancashire County Council
- Parkwise

## 11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Correspondence from the Chair of the Haslingden Taxi Association	Appendix 1