

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services**

#### **Licensing Committee – 2 August 2011**

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**Subject: Proposed relocation of taxi stance**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To consider a proposal from Clydebank Rebuilt to alter the taxi stance which is currently situated in Alexander Street, Clydebank and create a new feeder rank in Hume Street.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Clydebank Rebuilt propose to carry out public realm and landscaping works as well as making significant alterations to the traffic management arrangements in the Alexander Street/Hume Street area of Clydebank. These proposals were approved at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 3 August 2010.
- 2.2** Currently the taxi stance is located on the east side of Alexander Street south of Chalmers Street junction and accommodates 5 taxis. The feeder rank at the southern end of Alexander Street, 10m from the entrance to Chandlers Public House holds an additional 7 taxis.
- 2.3** Clydebank Rebuilt's proposals include altering the existing taxi stance and the appointment of a new feeder rank. The new taxi stance would be located from a point 7.8 metres to the south of the intersection of the western kerb line of Alexander Street with the southern kerb line of Chalmers Street, running south from said point along the west side of Alexander Street for a distance of 31.5 metres - to accommodate 6 taxis. The new taxi stance would also be located from a point 7.8 metres to the south of the intersection of the eastern kerb line of Alexander Street with the southern kerb line of Chalmers Street, running south from said point along the east side of Alexander Street for a distance of 31.5 metres - to accommodate 6 taxis.
- 2.4** The feeder rank would be located from a point 26 metres south west of the intersection of the centre of Hume Street and the line connecting the corners of the railway line retaining walls to the north west and south east of Hume Street from said point to the junction of Hume Street and Chalmers Street - to accommodate 7 taxis. Appendix 1 shows the effect of the proposed new taxi stance and feeder rank.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** It is proposed that the Committee now consider formally appointing a taxi stance and feeder rank in Alexander Street and Hume Street.
- 3.2** The existing taxi stance is located on the east side of Alexander Street south of Chalmers Street junction and accommodates 5 taxis. The existing feeder rank at the southern end of Alexander Street, 10m from the entrance to Chandlers Public House, holds an additional 7 taxis. As Members of the Planning Committee approved Clydebank Rebuilt's proposals to carry out public realm and landscaping works in the Alexander Street/Hume Street area of Clydebank, the appointment of the existing taxi stance and feeder rank will have to be revoked from the date on which the new taxi stance and feeder rank become operational.
- 3.3** In terms of Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, before taxi stances are appointed or revoked by a licensing authority, consultation must take place with persons or organisations who are, or appear to be, representative of the operators of taxis operating in the area. A licensing authority is also required to give notice of any proposed appointment or revocation of taxi stances to the Chief Constable and give public notice of the proposals by advertisement in at least one newspaper circulating in the area. Any competent objections or representations which are received in relation to the proposals must be taken into consideration by the authority.
- 3.4** A full description of the proposed stances is given in the copy of the Public Notice which is appended to the report.
- 3.5** At the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 3 May 2011, officers were authorised to consult the taxi trade and make the necessary arrangements to give notice of the proposed appointment and revocation of the taxi stances to the Chief Constable and public notice of the proposals, as referred to in paragraph 3.3 above.
- 3.6** The public notice, detailing the proposed appointment and revocation of the taxi stances, appeared in the 11 May 2011 edition of the Clydebank Post.
- 3.7** No objections or representations were received from the taxi trade, the Chief Constable or the public.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** There are no financial implications as all the relative costs involved are being met by Clydebank Rebuilt including the cost of advertising the Public Notice in the Clydebank Post.

- 5.2 The cost of installing the camera and monitor equipment necessary for taxi driver's ranking in Hume Street to observe when a space becomes available on the taxi stance in Alexander Street, will be funded by Clydebank Rebuilt for a 5 year period. It is anticipated that on the basis that SPT works proceed the eventual proposal is to locate both the taxi stance and feeder rank in Chalmers Street removing the need for a taxi stance in Alexander Street and a feeder rank in Hume Street.

## **6. Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 There is no increased risk to the Council associated with the contents of this report.

## **7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 There would be an increase in the number of spaces provided for taxis to sit at the new taxi stance and feeder rank from the current amount 12 to 19.
- 7.2 Wheelchair accessible vehicles are manufactured with their ramps on the near side of the vehicle. The current rank in Alexander Street is situated on a one way street. Taxis pick up passengers from the off side of the vehicle which currently presents a problem when a wheelchair bound passenger wishes to make use of the taxi ramps. The proposed relocation of the taxi stance would eliminate this problem.

## **8. Strategic Assessment**

There are no strategic implications.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the proposed appointment and revocation be considered and determined by the Committee.

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Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services

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**Appendices:** Draft Proposed Appointment of Taxi Stances

**Background Papers:**

1. Minutes of Meetings of Planning Committee held on 3 August 2010.
2. Letter to Mr. Hugh Moore, Projects Manager, Clyde Rebuilt dated 15 April 2011.
3. Letter to Mr. Raymond Walsh, Senior Engineer (Traffic), Roads, Transport and Environmental Services dated 15 April 2011.
4. Letter to Chief Constable dated 19 May 2011
5. Letter to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group dated 19 May 2011.
6. Letter to Mr. B. Gourlay, Clydebank Public Hire Association dated 19 May 2011.
7. Letter from Chief Constable dated 3 June 2011.
8. Letter to Mr. Hugh Moore, Projects Manager, Clyde Rebuilt dated 8 July 2011.
9. Letter to Mr. Raymond Walsh, Senior Engineer (Traffic), Roads, Transport and Environmental Services dated 8 July 2011.

**Wards Affected:** Ward 6, Clydebank.

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982**

**PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF TAXI STANCES**

In terms of Section 19 of the above Act **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that West Dunbartonshire Council proposes to revoke the appointment of a Taxi Stance at the undernoted location:-

**CLYDEBANK**

1. The east side of Alexander Street south of Chalmers Street junction, rank for 5 taxis.

A feeder rank at the southern end of Alexander Street, 10m from the entrance to Chandlers Public House, for an additional 7 taxis.

In terms of Section 19 of the above Act **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that West Dunbartonshire Council proposes to appoint a Taxi Stance at the undernoted location:-

**CLYDEBANK**

1. From a point 7.8 metres to the south of the intersection of the western kerb line of Alexander Street with the southern kerb line of Chalmers Street, running south from said point along the east side of Alexander Street for a distance of 31.5 metres - to accommodate 6 taxis and from a point 7.8 metres to the south of the intersection of the eastern kerb line of Alexander Street with the southern kerb line of Chalmers Street, running south from said point along the west side of Alexander Street for a distance of 31.5 metres - to accommodate 6 taxis with a feeder rank being located as follows:-

From a point 26 metres south west of the intersection of the centre of Hume Street and the line connecting the corners of the railway line retaining walls to the north west and south east of Hume Street from said point to the junction of Hume Street and Chalmers Street - to accommodate 7 taxis.

Any objections or representations concerning these proposals will be considered by the authority provided same are received within twenty eight days of the date of this notice. Objections or representations should be made in writing to the undernoted and any such objections or representations will be considered by the authority before it finally determines if it intends to approve the proposals.

Joyce White  
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11 May, 2011