

**REPORT TO:** Licensing Sub-Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 11 October 2012

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

**SUBJECT:** Trade request for additional taxi ranks in Haddington,  
Dunbar and Tranent

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise the Sub-Committee of the request received from East Lothian Taxi & Private Hire Association for the creation of additional taxi ranks in Haddington, Dunbar and Tranent.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee consider the Trade request outlined herein, and, if satisfied of the reasons for the request, agree to proceed as requested.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee authorise the Corporate Legal Advisor and such staff as she may designate to proceed with the necessary public advertising process relative to the creation of a new taxi ranks.
- 2.3 That the Sub-Committee receive a further report from the Corporate Legal Advisor advising of the outcome of this process and of any objections received, with a view to formally establishing said taxi ranks thereafter.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 19, a licensing authority may, after consultation with representatives of the taxi trade in their area, appoint stances for taxis. Before doing so, the licensing authority are obliged to give notice to the Chief Constable and also advertise the proposal in a local newspaper, giving members of the public 28 days to make representations on the proposal, which representations shall be taken into account by the licensing authority in coming to their final decision.

- 3.2 East Lothian Taxi & Private Hire Association has approached the Council with a request that additional stances for taxis be created at the following locations. In each case a plan showing the proposed location is attached to this report. (1) In Haddington, to the east side of the pelican crossing outside Baynes Bakers, High Street- for three cars. The Association also suggest that all current taxi ranks in Haddington be revoked. (2) In Dunbar, in High Street, for six cars. The Association advise that this request is prompted by requests from the traders in Dunbar, who indicate that there are problems with the current rank as it is too close to the carry out shops and tends to be used by the public for short term parking. (3) In Tranent- at Winton Place, for three cars. Again the Association advise that this request is prompted by the Tranent traders who feel there are currently insufficient spaces in the town for taxis.
- 3.3 The Transportation section of the Council has been notified of these requests and invited to attend this meeting of the Sub-Committee and/or submit updated comments on the proposal. Their initial comments received in May of this year were to the effect that parking provision (including Taxi ranks) in Haddington town centre will require to be reviewed in conjunction with the Haddington Town Centre vision - commissioned by Haddington Town Centre Vision committee- before implementation. The draft document has been circulated and was on the agenda for the next Haddington Town Centre Advisory Group meeting in June. However, the vision will require to be adopted by Council at some stage to deliver any improvements, alterations and ultimately change the parking arrangements. The earliest they think this can be looked is the autumn. Changing the regulations can take 18 months although the mechanism to introduce a taxi rank will be significantly shorter. Amendments to the Dunbar Traffic Regulation Order were proposed and arrangements made to advertise before the election. This was delayed due to the controversial nature of the proposals. The administration then requested the proposals be reviewed, which is being done. They indicated that they would take on board Dunbar taxi requests in that review.
- 3.4 The requests by East Lothian Taxi & Private Hire Association have also been notified to Lothian & Borders Police, who have been invited to attend this meeting of the Sub-Committee and/or submit comments on the proposal.
- 3.5 In the event that the locations of the proposed ranks can be agreed, that neither the Police not the Transportation division have any issues, and that the Sub-committee are in favour of the proposals, the next stage would be for the proposal to be advertised to the general public by way of notice in the local press. The public would then have a period of 28 days to lodge any objections or other observations regarding the proposal. The matter would then be the subject of a further report to the Sub-Committee at which any such objections and observations would be fully considered, and at which the proposal would be confirmed or rejected as circumstances dictated.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None- the Council has a statutory power to designate taxi stances in terms of Section 19 of the 1982 Act.

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial - There would be certain costs involved in physically marking out any new taxi stance on the surface of the road, plus any associated signage deemed necessary, as well as the outlays involved in advertising the proposals.
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Civic Government (Sc) Act 1982, Section 19
- 7.2 Request from ELTPHA dated 15.5.12

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<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Corporate Legal Advisor
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<b>DATE</b>	27 September 2012

# EAST LOTHIAN TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE ASSOCIATION

15/ 5/ 2012

Dear Marie we are very sorry . We forgot to put these proposals in with the original agenda ask . Would you be so kind and see if you could get these proposals onto the agenda for the next lic subcommittee meeting in June .

As follows taxi ranks

1. Haddington a proposed new 3 car rank outside baynes the bakers . And do away with all other ranks in Haddington .
2. Dunbar the Dunbar traders are asking if it is possible to have a completely new rank for six taxis in the proposed markings on the map supplied . They say that they have lots of problems with the current rank as it is to close to the carry out shops in the area and that members of the public use it for short term parking .
- 3 Tranent the traders in tranent feel that there is not enough taxi ranks at the moment and are asking for three more spaces to be created at the start of Winton place just off tranent high .street

Your sincerely Colin Paxton / George brooks . Eltapha .

East Lothian Council  
Licensing  
16 MAY 2012  
Received

PROPOSES NEW TAXI RANK  
HADDINGTON

Google <sup>TEMPORARY</sup> TAXI RANK



CURRENT TAXI RANK

PROPOSED NEW TAXI RANK  
3 SPACES  
TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE  
PELICAN CROSSING

BUS STOP.  
AT BOOTS CHEMIST



Dunbar



Dunbar

TRANENT



Address **Tranent, East Lothian UK**

3 NEW SPACES

