

## EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

<b>Name of decision maker:</b>	<b>Councillor Andrew Williams</b>
<b>Portfolio:</b>	<b>Corporate &amp; Contracted Services</b>
<b>Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:</b>	<b>6 November 2020</b>

### **Title of Decision:**

Consultation on a proposal to introduce new part time taxi ranks in the Berkhamsted and Tring High Streets and to revert the part time taxi rank in Forge Car Park back to permanent parking spaces.

### **Decision made and reasons:**

1. To engage consultants to undertake a consultation on the proposal to introduce new part time taxi ranks in the Berkhamsted and Tring High Streets

#### **Berkhamsted**

Berkhamsted currently only has a part time taxi rank along the high street which runs between 0:30am and 5am and is a bus stop the rest of the time. This rank is of no value to the trade due to the restrictive times when it can be used, and therefore is not used at all.

The proposal to introduce a new rank which will operate between 19:00 and 07.00 will allow a good central location for a suitable period of time when it is expected that taxis would be utilised by evening customers of the local bars and restaurants. The rank would provide space for 8 taxis.



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### Tring

Tring currently has a part time taxi rank in Forge Car Park

It is rarely used, due to inconvenient location within the car park, which is not visible from main road due to brick hut, and is away from most evening premises.



A more obvious rank on the High Street would assist in resolving recent issues with out-of-borough vehicles illegally plying within Tring

Loss of parking spaces could be mitigated by relinquishing rank spaces in Forge car park

### General Issues affecting Berkhamsted and Tring

The taxi trade have been asking for improved rank provision in both towns for a number of years.

Improving the rank provision in the most suitable available locations, will be positive for our licensed trade to give them an advantage over out of area vehicles/drivers who can legally work in our area, which has been made easier by the Deregulation Act 2015, which now permits cross border hiring. It is good for our residents and visitors as it means they are more likely to be able to easily access one of our licensed vehicles/drivers, we license to a higher standard than some neighbouring authorities, and using local trade makes it easier for customers to complain should they experience any issues.

### Required procedure for creation of new taxi ranks

There are two procedures that need to be followed to effectively create new taxi ranks. The use of a Traffic Regulation Order under the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1984, ss32-37, establishes restrictions to who can use the location, preventing other vehicles from parking in the ranks, and giving the Council the ability to take

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enforcement action when this happens. This is the most significant part of the overall process. Project Centre has been approached for a quote in regards to this process, and their proposal document is attached.

In addition to this there is a set process under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s63 which gives the Licensing Authority control over the stand, allowing enforcement to take place against misuse of the rank. Before appointing any stand for hackney carriages, the Council must give notice to the police and must also arrange a public notice of the proposal to appear in the local newspaper if any written objections or representations are received within twenty-eight days of the notice, these have to be taken into consideration.

### **Reports considered: (here reference can be made to specific documents)**

No reports to be considered

### **Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:**

Should the decision be approved consultations will take place with:

- The properties fronting the proposed changes
- Portfolio Holder
- Ward councillors
- Hertfordshire County Council (the highway authority) TRO manager
- Highways Strategy Manager
- Highways Locality Officer
- Hertfordshire constabulary
- Fire & Rescue Service
- Ambulance Service
- Land Charges
- HCC Passenger Transport Unit
- The Dacorum Taxi Trade Association

### **Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:**

The proposed consultation to make new Traffic Regulation Orders meets the requirements following the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulation 1996.

### **Deputy S151 Officer Comments:**

The cost of this consultation will be met from existing approved budgets.

### **Implications:**

Without suitable rank provision it is difficult for our trade to provide a good service to local people. This makes it more difficult for the trade to justify supporting the Berkhamsted and Tring, and makes it easier for both out of area vehicles, and potentially unlicensed trade to exploit the lack of service provision, which reduces the Council's ability to control and regulate the standard of vehicle and driver being used

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by people living or visiting the area.

### **Risk:**

The intention of this consultation is to comply with legislation and therefore avoid the risk of non-compliance.

### **Value for Money:**

The cost of ranks is for the use of Hackney Carriage drivers and their vehicles only, as part of the fee setting process it is possible to include a charge to recover the cost of changes to the ranks via vehicle licence fees (the law prevents any recovery via drivers licence fees as the Council can only charge for the cost of issuing such licences, and not any wider cost such as these).

The estimated cost to complete the scheme is just under £10,000. The initial costs are estimated at £5,000. The costs of this proposal will be recovered over time from the 200 plus licensed vehicles.

The consultants selected for this function have carried out similar consultations and design works and are familiar with the area. They are also one of the named contractors in the framework agreement for the provision of consultancy for traffic related operations and parking with Watford Borough Council which is available to Dacorum Borough Council.

### **Options Considered and reasons for rejection:**

Not to consult on the proposals, which would leave the lack of rank provision unresolved. This would leave the situation as it is, providing our own licensed trade with little support to provide a good service to these towns, and leaving these towns as good locations for out of area trade to carry out work.

### **Portfolio Holders Signature:**

**Date:**

### **Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:**

#### **For Member Support Officer use only**

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 03/11/20

Date Decision Published: 06/11/20      Decision No: PH-021-20

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 13/11/20

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

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### **BACKGROUND**

The proposals will support the Council's licensed trade, improve the service provision for our local residents and visitors, and help to prevent legal and illegal activity from out of area trade.