

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014 OFFICER DECISION WRITTEN RECORD

Subject matter:	Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) amendments in Ware
Date of Decision:	4 th April 2019
Exempt /Confidential information (Yes / No):	No
If Exempt/Confidential – reason why:	n/a
Authorising Officer:	Ben Wood Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy <i>in lieu of the Head of Operations</i> acting under authority delegated within Part 3c, paragraph 17.18 of the council's Constitution 'to authorise officers to serve and sign in their own name all authorisation, variation, revocation and enforcement and other notices falling within the legislation referred to in Appendix B' where Appendix B includes the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Decision:	Authorisation of the Head of Housing and Health to: a) instigate public consultation on the creation of two taxi ranks on the High Street, Ware and the removal of two existing taxi ranks located at Broadmeads and Amwell End in Ware and b) unless the outcome of the

	<p>consultation dictates otherwise, implement the necessary Traffic Regulations Orders (amended as necessary following consultation) under the Road Traffic Act 1984</p>
<p>Reason(s) for Decision:</p>	<p>As part of ongoing work to keep the requirement for taxi ranks under review, officers believe that two taxi ranks in Ware (Broadmeads and Amwell End) are no longer required due to changes in the location of local entertainment venues and the like. At the same time, it is felt that additional night time taxi rank space in the High Street, Ware is now needed to meet local demand for taxis and aid dispersal for late night venues</p>
<p>Details of alternative options, if any, considered and rejected:</p>	<p>No amendments – REJECTED as the changes in the night time economy in Ware mean that consultation on the location of taxi ranks is now required</p>
<p>Name(s) of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision that is being taken under specific express authorisation:</p>	<p>None</p>

Details of authority to make this decision

This is an executive decision being made under authority delegated to the Head of Operations under Part 3c, paragraph 17.18 of the council's Constitution. The Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy is making this decision in lieu of the Head of Operations given onward delegation of the Head of Operations' duties relating to parking matters during her maternity leave.

It is a non-key decision as it neither meets the financial threshold for a key decision nor addresses issues considered significant in terms of their overall effects on communities in the Ware wards in which the existing and proposed new ranks are/would be located.

Decision

That the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy <i>in lieu of the Head of Operations</i> acting under authority delegated within Part 3c, paragraph 17.18:	
(A)	authorises the Head of Housing and Health to instigate public consultation on the creation of two taxi ranks on the High Street, Ware and the removal of two existing taxi ranks located at Broadmeads and Amwell End in Ware
(B)	authorises the Head of Housing and Health to, unless the outcome of the consultation dictates otherwise, implement the necessary Traffic Regulations Orders (amended as necessary following consultation) under the Road Traffic Act 1984.

1. Background

- 1.1. Taxi ranks within the district are kept under constant review. The reviews are to monitor the needs of residents, businesses, visiting to the district and the taxi trade utilising the Towns.
- 1.2. As part of the reviews it has been identified that two taxi ranks in Ware, Hertfordshire are no longer fit for purpose due to changes in the locality.
- 1.3. The two taxi ranks which are no longer being used due to a lack of demand are located at Broadmeads (24 hour rank) and Amwell End (time limited rank for Friday and Saturday nights).
- 1.4. With the changes in the Night Time Economy in Ware the review has identified a need for additional night time taxi rank space in the High Street to meet demand for taxis and aid dispersal.
- 1.5. The two areas in Ware High Street which have been identified as ideal taxi ranks are located in the following locations:
 - outside 102 High Street (The Lodge) consisting of four time limited public parking spaces; and
 - layby outside 22 High Street (The Snug) consisting of four time limited public parking spaces.
- 1.6. The proposed changes to the current parking arrangements include:
 - the dedesignation of two existing taxi ranks at Broadmeads and Amwell End and redesignation as free, time-limited public parking spaces; and

- the designation of two areas of free, time-limited public parking (outside 102 High Street, Ware and outside 22 High Street, Ware as two time-limited taxi ranks with the locations remaining as free public parking to outside of the designated times taxi ranks.

2. Report

- 2.1. The council requires amendments in the following locations:
 - introduce taxi ranks in two areas in the High Street, Ware operating Thursday – Saturday 6:30pm to 00:00, Saturday to Sunday 00:00 - 08:00;
 - revoke the taxi stand restriction in Broadmeads in its entirety (30 metres length) and implement limited waiting free parking Monday to Saturday, 08:00 – 18:30, 1 hour, and no return within 1 hour;
 - Amwell End – revoke existing order and replace with parking, Monday to Saturday, 08:30 – 18:30, 30 minutes, no return within 1 hour.
- 2.2. Hertfordshire County Council Highways have been approached regarding the proposed schedule of works. They are unable to lead this work due to other scheduled works.
- 2.3. East Herts Council Parking Service provided contact details for external contractors which would be able to carry out the necessary works.
- 2.4. Two contractors have provided quotes, with one quote selected, as it best met the cost/quality requirements, subject to approval to proceed following consultation.
- 2.5. Project Centre quoted a lump sum fee to produce amended TROs and associated documents of £5,148. It is

recognised that this may change slightly should the council's requirements be amended following consultation. The proposed taxi ranks will be subject to the creation of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Provision has been made within the fees in 2019/20 charged to proprietors for licensing Hackney Carriage to cover the full costs of these proposals.

- 2.6. The lines and signage cost will be met by budgets held by the Parking Team.

3. Implications/Consultations

- 3.1. The creation of the new ranks will mean the loss of eight public parking spaces in Ware High Street between the hours of operation detailed in paragraph 2.1 above.
- 3.2. During these times free vehicle parking is available in the East Herts Council owned car parks located: Library - SG12 9XF, Kibes Lane South - SG12 9HS and Broadmeads SG12 9HT. This is in addition to the free on-street parking in the area.
- 3.3. The designation of the two current ranks as free, time-limited public parking will provide an equal number of free parking spaces as will be rendered unavailable by the creation of the proposed two new taxi ranks.
- 3.4. The changes will not decrease the number of free public parking spaces in Ware during the times of operation of the ranks.
- 3.5. The required 28 day public consultation will be carried out so that all stakeholders can make their views known. Responses will be given full consideration before any works are commissioned.
- 3.6. Finance have confirmed that provision has been made in the 2019/20 for these works.

4. Background Papers

None.

Report authors:

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