

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2013

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

9. OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD TAXI RANK PROVISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BISHOP'S STORTFORD CENTRAL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report:**

- This report describes options for additions to taxi rank provision in Bishop's Stortford, and ask the Committee to authorise consultation with the licensed taxi trade to further evaluate the options.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LICENSING COMMITTEE: That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>The consultation with the licensed taxi trade to further evaluate the options for additional taxi rank space in Bishop's Stortford be approved.</b>
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Bishop's Stortford Town Council as part of their 2020 planning exercise, invited officers to discuss existing taxi rank provision, and the possibility of improving provision to create a better experience for visitors to the town centre with greater convenience for taxi users, and to help better dispersal from the Town Centre of people visiting alcohol licensed venues at the end of night time trading.
- 1.2 Taxi ranks and stands may be provided by the authority for the convenience of the travelling public, to provide places where they may go with the reasonable expectation of finding a taxi available for hire.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 Following discussions and a visit to Bishop's Stortford with Members of the Town Council, the following options were identified:

### 2.2 Options to extend existing provision:

2.3 1) A night time rank on the public highway of Market Square behind Host, against the East kerb, i.e. next to the Host building, at High Street End, and facing High Street.

2.4 There will need to be appropriate signage to indicate the location to people leaving Baroosh, Zizzis and Host.

2.5 2) A day/night time rank in Water lane in view of Waitrose Car Park, and facing North (Water Lane is one way). This might in the future have the potential to allow taxis to be marshalled to service patrons leaving Water Lounge.

### 2.6 Proposals for no change to existing provision:

2.7 We agreed that the service road provision near Sainsburys gives adequate daytime taxi rank provision to shoppers leaving Sainsburys and Jackson Square, and no improvement is needed at this point.

2.8 The Riverside rank will re-open outside a new Wetherspoons pub, and it is anticipated that this will give adequate provision for this part of the town.

2.9 Herts Highways at our request, and at no cost to East Herts, has installed a short public night time rank (operating after the last bus to use the daytime bus station lane) to service patrons leaving The Fountain, Bacchus Bar, and the cinema. The day/night bus station lane will not be affected. The operation of the Station Rank continues to be a cause of friction between drivers with station permits and those without, however from the point of view of the travelling public, it is believed there is sufficient rank space.

2.10 Another proposal originally requested by the Police, to try to persuade Hertfordshire Highways to include a short night time rank in the daytime only part of the bus station during the recent improvements, has already been successfully implemented.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.
- 3.2 Subject to Committee approval, the licensed taxi trade will be consulted on these proposals for further evaluation, and consultation responses will be reported to Licensing Committee in August 2013.

### Background Papers

None.

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