

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2011

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TAXI PARKING ENFORCEMENT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

To inform members about feedback from the Parking Manager about taxi parking on Bircheley Green and Railway Street.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION – that the report be received.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report presents information from the Parking Manager following Members concern at Licensing Committee in November 2010 about queuing taxis outside the designated taxi rank area in Railway Street (and Market Street), Hertford. Members observed that these vehicles were partially parked on footways thus posing a safety hazard to pedestrians.
- 1.2 The Director of Customer and Community Services/Parking Manager was requested to ensure that parking restrictions in this area of Hertford were enforced, particularly through the issue of penalty parking notices to offending taxi drivers parking unlawfully. Members requested that time leeway for drivers to move their vehicles before a penalty parking notice was issued, should be waived. The Director was also requested to liaise with Hertfordshire Constabulary to enlist support and assistance in enforcing parking restrictions in and around Railway Street.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Parking Manager suspended the five minute observation period in Railway Street, and has since provided the following information;

- 2.2 Parking enforcement against taxi drivers in Railway Street and elsewhere has been in the face of considerable hostility and even threats against the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs), however all parking enforcement is conducted without fear or favour.
- 2.3 CEOs actively patrol the area at least once per working hour.
- 2.4 This has not yielded any Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) against taxi drivers as they simply move away when approached – only to return a short time later.
- 2.5 Since January 2011 three PCNs have been issued in this area but none to taxi drivers. One Blue badge holder (day) and two regular motorists (evenings) were issued with notices.
- 2.6 Parking Services plan to advertise a Traffic Regulation Order this year proposing to make the Fore Street rank the main town taxi rank facility and convert the existing parking bay to loading, blue badge and “limited waiting” bays i.e. free parking for short period – expected to be 30 minutes or less. This may assist in traffic management and alleviate the current parking problem with taxi drivers.

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’**.

Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor Malcolm Alexander – Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds – Head of Community Safety and Licensing – Extn 1498

Report Author: Paul Newman – Interim Licensing Manager

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate)</i> :	Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i>
Consultation:	For information only, and no partner or external consultation has taken place.
Legal:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Financial:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Human Resource:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Risk Management:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer