

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	18 May 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Application for changes to the City Centre Taxi Ranks
REPORT NUMBER	COM/21/064
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Ruth Milne
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the outcome of the formal consultation on the proposal to make changes taxi ranks due to current access restrictions on city centre streets through the Spaces for People (SfP) programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee :-

- 2.1 consider the responses received to the formal consultation, on the proposal for changes to taxi ranks in the city centre, in terms of Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

- 2.2 agree to make the changes as detailed:

(a) Full Time ranks - Suspension

- **Hadden Street:**
Westbound feeder rank 7 No. stances – as shown in Appendix A
- **Back Wynd:**
Southbound rank 15 No. stances – as shown in Appendix B

(b) Full Time ranks – Appointment. which will operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week

- **Exchange Street:**
Northbound 7 No. stances - as shown in Appendix C
- **Rosemount Viaduct:**
Eastbound 12 No. stances – as shown in Appendix D
- **Exchequer Row/Shiprow:**
Northbound 10 No. stances – as shown in Appendix E
- **Union Row**
Southbound 4 No. stances – as shown in Appendix F
- **Justice Mill Lane**
Westbound 3 No. stances – as shown in Appendix G

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Licensing Committee at their meeting on 19 January 2021 considered a report from the Spaces for People (SfP) programme to make changes to the taxi ranks in the city as a result of the temporary restrictions being implemented in the city centre and resolved:

(i) to approve the request from SfP programme for these changes: and

(ii) to instruct the Chief Officer Governance to undertake the formal consultation on the proposal to make changes to a number of city centre taxi ranks, in terms of Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 with

- Persons or organisations appearing to be representative of taxi operators in the area, ie. the Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group.
- The Chief Constable, Police Scotland.
- The Public, by way of notice of the proposal in an advertisement in at least one newspaper circulating in the area giving 28 days for any objections or representations.
- Aberdeen City Council as the Roads Authority.

(iii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Governance, if no objections received through the statutory process, to implement the suspension and appointment of these taxi ranks with the associated number of spaces at the locations detailed in 2.1 allowing the appointments to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(iv) to instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to report back to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee on the outcome of formal consultation if objections are received through the statutory process.

3.1.1 Plans illustrating the proposed new changes to the taxi ranks are attached to this report (Appendices A to G).

3.2 The Public Consultation was undertaken by way of a public notice appearing in the Evening Express newspaper on Wednesday 27 January 2021, a copy of which is attached to this report at Appendix 1, inviting comments by 24 February 2021.

3.2.1 One response was received to the public consultation and the detail of this response is attached to this report in Appendix 2.

3.3 The following responses to the formal statutory consultation on the proposed changes to the taxi ranks in the city have been received:-

3.3.1 Aberdeen City Council as Roads Authority commented that “They are content with the proposals and have been involved with these changes”.

3.3.2 Police Scotland commented that:

“We have shared this consultation with our Roads Policing Team and the Local Policing Inspector and the only observation, made by the Local Policing Inspector, related to the rank outside HMT and its proximity to bridges and he asked that the local authority considers measures to ensure public safety in that

regard.”

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 With reference to paragraph 5.1.2 below, any costs for signage or lining these ranks in the city have been included in the Spaces for People funding through Sustrans, and there will be no additional cost to Aberdeen City Council as a result of these changes.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Changes to Taxi Ranks

Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 authorises a licensing authority to appoint, after consultation, stances for taxis for the whole or any part of a day in any road within their area or on any land owned by the authority or, with the consent of the owner, on any land owned by him. A licensing authority may also from time to time, after consultation, vary the number of taxis permitted to be at each stance and alter the position of such stances or revoke the appointment thereof.

- 5.1.1 Section 19 further allows a licensing authority to erect and illuminate signs, and cause lines or marks to be made on roads; indicating the limits of taxi ranks.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low(L) Medium(M) High(H)	Mitigation
Financial	The costs of implementing the recommendations and/or the cost of the signs and lining a rank exceed the budget provision available.	L	Close monitoring of the costs committed to the work and the budget available. The cost of the signs and lining the ranks are mitigated by prior agreement.
Legal	As per paragraph 5 above.	L	Compliance with the statutory requirements
Employee	There is no risk to employees arising from the recommendations of this report.	L	N/A
Customer	The proposal for changes to the taxi ranks in the city will consider the provision of ranks for the customers and citizens of Aberdeen whilst the SfP restrictions	L	The proposal and consultation on the changes to the taxi rank in the City will be of interest to the citizens of Aberdeen to help improve taxi services

	are in place in the city centre.		whilst the SfP restrictions are in place.
Environment	There is no risk to the environment arising from the recommendations of this report	L	N/A
Technology	There is no risk to technology arising from the recommendations of this report.	L	N/A
Reputational	As a licensing authority there would be a reputational risk to the Council if it failed to undertake its legal duty to carry out the statutory procedure in section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act for consideration and consultation on any proposed changes to taxi ranks.	L	As this report is recommending that the Committee consider the responses from the statutory formal consultation and public notice procedure in order to determine the proposal for these changes to taxi ranks, any risk will be mitigated.

7. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	<p>Changes to the taxi ranks in the city centre will allow the taxi trade to continue to offer a good level of service to residents and visitors to Aberdeen mitigating the effects of traffic management measures put in place throughout the city centre as part of the Spaces for People Programme to enable pedestrians to physically distance.</p> <p>In addition to responding to the current public health emergency and the easing of lockdown requirements, the wider Spaces for People programme of temporary Covid19 public health measures supports the delivery of;</p> <p>Economy Policy Statement 4; Increase city centre footfall through delivery of the City Centre Masterplan, including the redesigned Union Terrace Gardens,</p> <p>Place Policy Statements 2; Support efforts to develop the Energetica corridor,</p> <p>Place Policy Statements 3; Refresh the local transport strategy, ensuring it includes the results of a city centre parking review; promotes cycle and pedestrian routes; and considers support for public transport,</p> <p>Place Policy Statements 5; Commit extra funding to resurface damaged roads and pavements throughout the city.</p>

	<p>The temporary Covid-19 public health measures actively support and encourage active and sustainable travel, in and across the City Centre and support maintenance and safe operation of the strategic road network enabling people to comply with physical distancing requirements.</p>
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	<p>The programme of temporary Covid-19 public health measures supports the delivery of;</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 1 – 10% increase in employment across priority and volume growth sectors by 2026, and</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 2 – 90% of working people in living wage employment by 2026 by supporting the lockdown easing measures which will enable the economy to recover and people to get back to work where they cannot work from home.</p> <p>The temporary Covid-19 public health measures will enable people to move around by walking and cycling where possible, while protecting access to public transport and enabling compliance with physical distancing requirements. The temporary Covid-19 public health measures will also support businesses re-opening by providing additional space for customers and create space, where possible, for outdoor seating and leisure activities.</p>
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The Spaces for People programme of temporary Covid-19 public health measures support the delivery of;</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 11 – Healthy life expectancy is five years longer by 2026.</p> <p>The temporary Covid-19 public health measures actively support and encourage active and sustainable travel and help reduce environmental pollutants which are harmful to human health. The temporary Covid-19 public health measures are also designed to enable physical distancing while moving around, thereby minimising the risk of Covid-19 transmission and the likelihood of a third wave of the disease.</p>
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	<p>The temporary Covid-19 public health measures support the delivery of;</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 14–Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 42.5% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate,</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 15 - 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.</p> <p>The temporary Covid-19 public health measures improve and/or create active and sustainable travel infrastructure.</p>
Regional and City Strategies	<p>The temporary Covid-19 public health measures support the delivery of the Regional and Local Transport Strategies, Strategic and Local Development Plans, Regional Economic</p>

	<p>Strategy and Action Plan, Health and Transport Action Plan, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Air Quality Action Plan and Powering Aberdeen. This is done by encouraging more people to walk and cycle to work, and to health care services, other services and to other destinations and, as a result of the public health emergency, to be able to do this whilst also complying with physical distancing requirements. This is particularly important with lockdown easing which will see more people travelling to work and other destinations and as businesses start to re-open. Although bus travel will remain significantly reduced for some time, the temporary Covid-19 public health measures also help to ensure that this mode can still be used safely too.</p>
<p>UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes</p> <p>The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Section 19</p>	<p>The measures directly contribute to Public Health and Scottish Government requirements and legislation relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and in particular support physical distancing in public spaces. They will also support businesses as they start to re-open in accordance with the lockdown easing phases. The temporary Covid-19 public health measures will also contribute towards the delivery of the Scottish National Transport Strategy (NTS 2), the UK and Scottish legislation on Air Quality Standards and Objectives, and Climate Change Acts.</p> <p>This legislation requires a formal consultation process to be undertaken before taxi ranks can be altered. This includes consulting with representatives of taxi licence holders in the City, members of the public or other interested bodies, including potential customers and users of taxis. Any proposed changes are consulted upon by way of an advertisement in the local press. The Licensing Authority also requires consultation with the Roads Authority and Police Scotland. The Licensing Authority requires to consider all responses to the consultation before making a final decision, and therefore all relevant views have been sought and will be considered before any rank is altered.</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Completed and not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard /	Not applicable

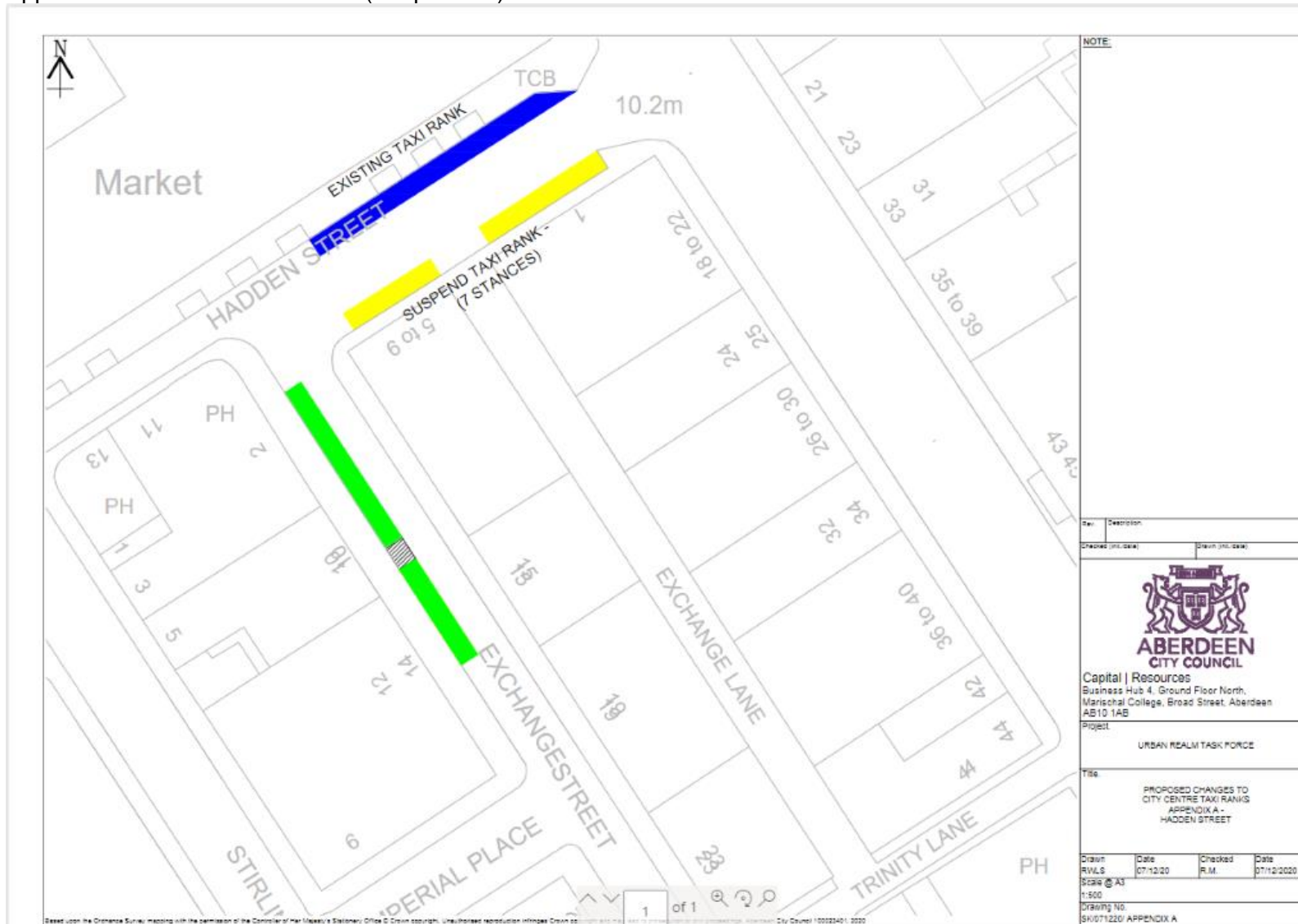
9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

- 9.1 Appendices A - G – Plans – Taxi Rank changes and locations
Appendix 1 – Public Notice in Evening Express 27 January 2021
Appendix 2 - Responses to Public Consultation

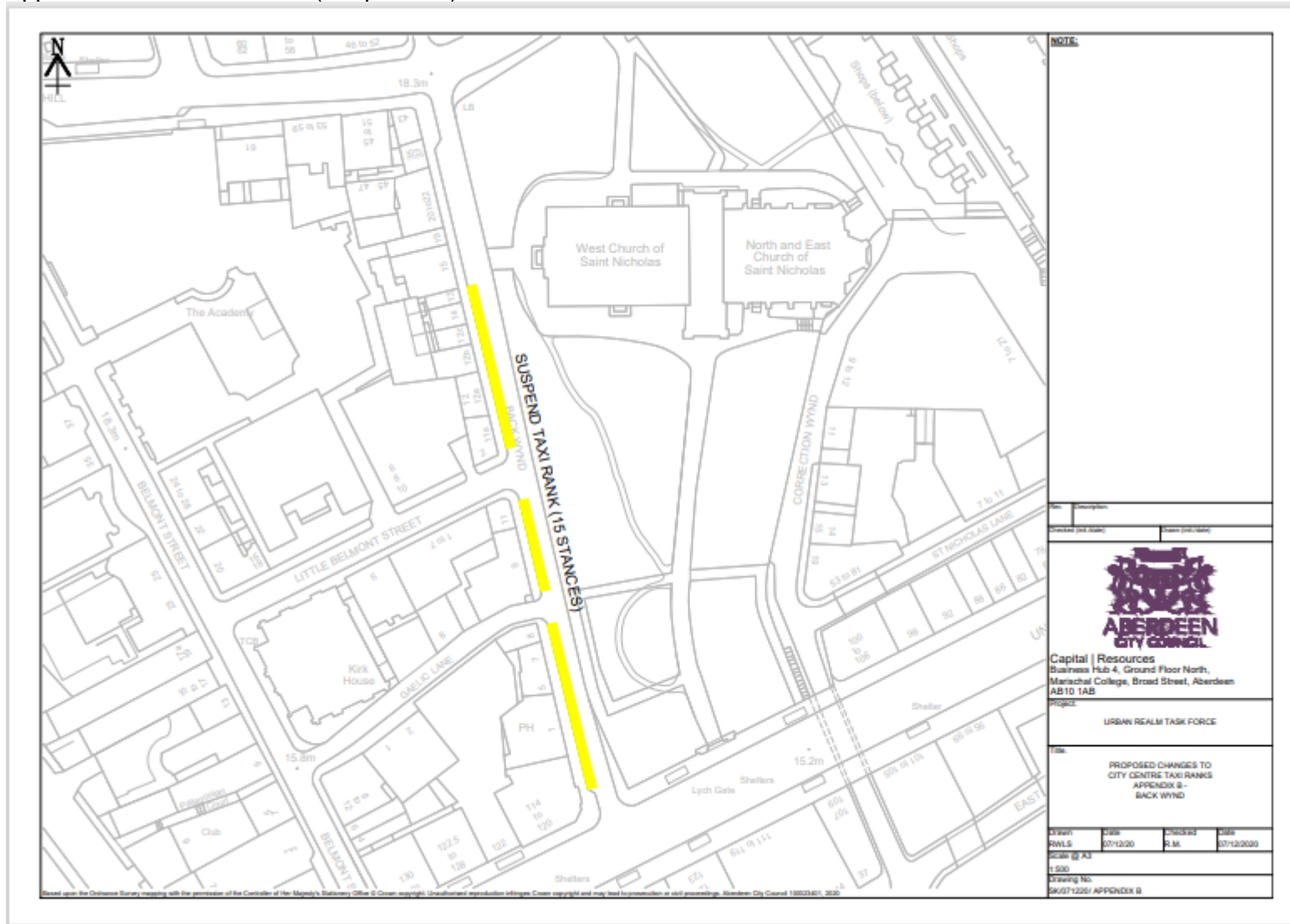
10. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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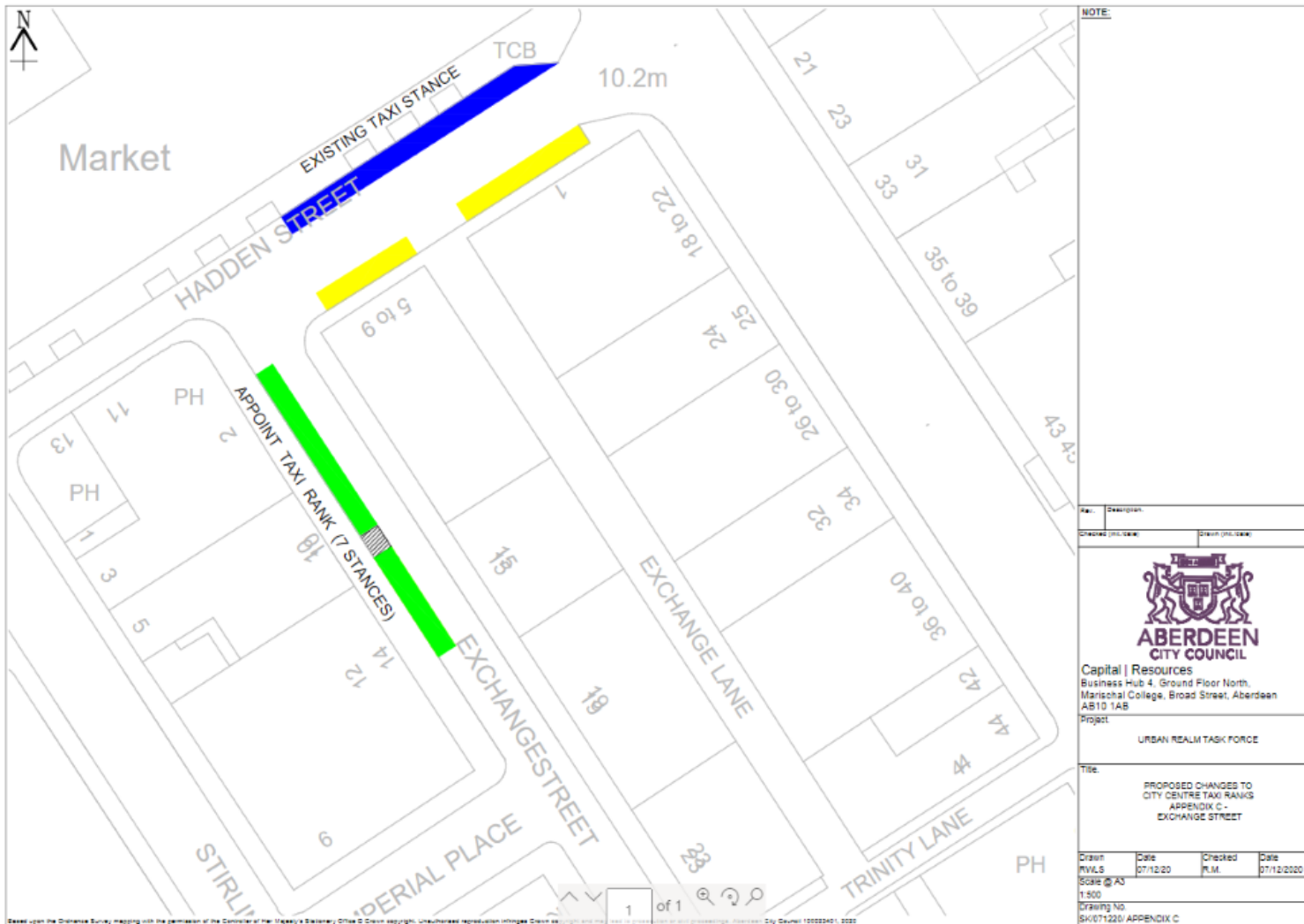
Appendix A – HADDEN STREET (Suspension)



Appendix B – BACK WYND (Suspension)



Appendix C – EXCHANGE STREET (Addition)



NOTE:

Author: []

Checked: []

Drawn: []

Checked: []

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Capital | Resources
 Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North,
 Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen
 AB10 1AB

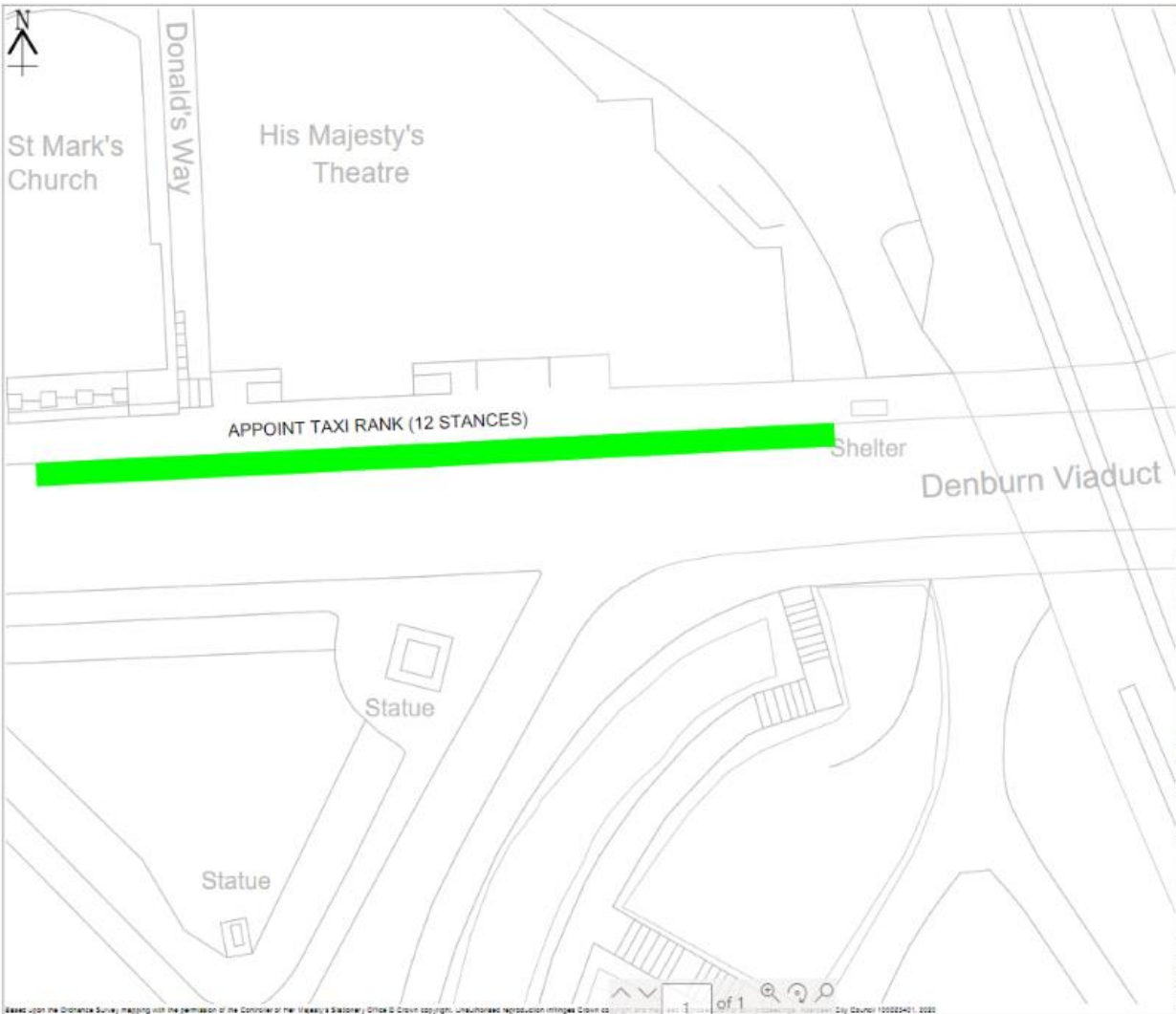
Project: URBAN REALM TASK FORCE

Title: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY CENTRE TAXI RANKS
 APPENDIX C - EXCHANGE STREET

Drawn: RWLS	Date: 07/12/20	Checked: JLM	Date: 07/12/2020
Scale: A3			
1:500			
Drawing No: SK/071220/APPENDIX C			

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Appendix D – ROSEMOUNT VIADUCT (Addition)



NOTE

Scale

Description	Scale (M:1=1m)	Scale (1:1=1mm)
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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Capital | Resources
 Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North,
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Project: URBAN REALM TASK FORCE

Title: PROPOSED CHANGES TO
 CITY CENTRE TAXI RANKS
 APPENDIX D -
 ROSEMOUNT VIADUCT

Drawn	Date	Checked	Date
WVLS	07/12/20	R.M.	07/12/2020

Scale: 1:500
 Drawing No: BR071220/ APPENDIX D

Appendix E – EXCHEQUER ROW/SHIPROW (Addition)

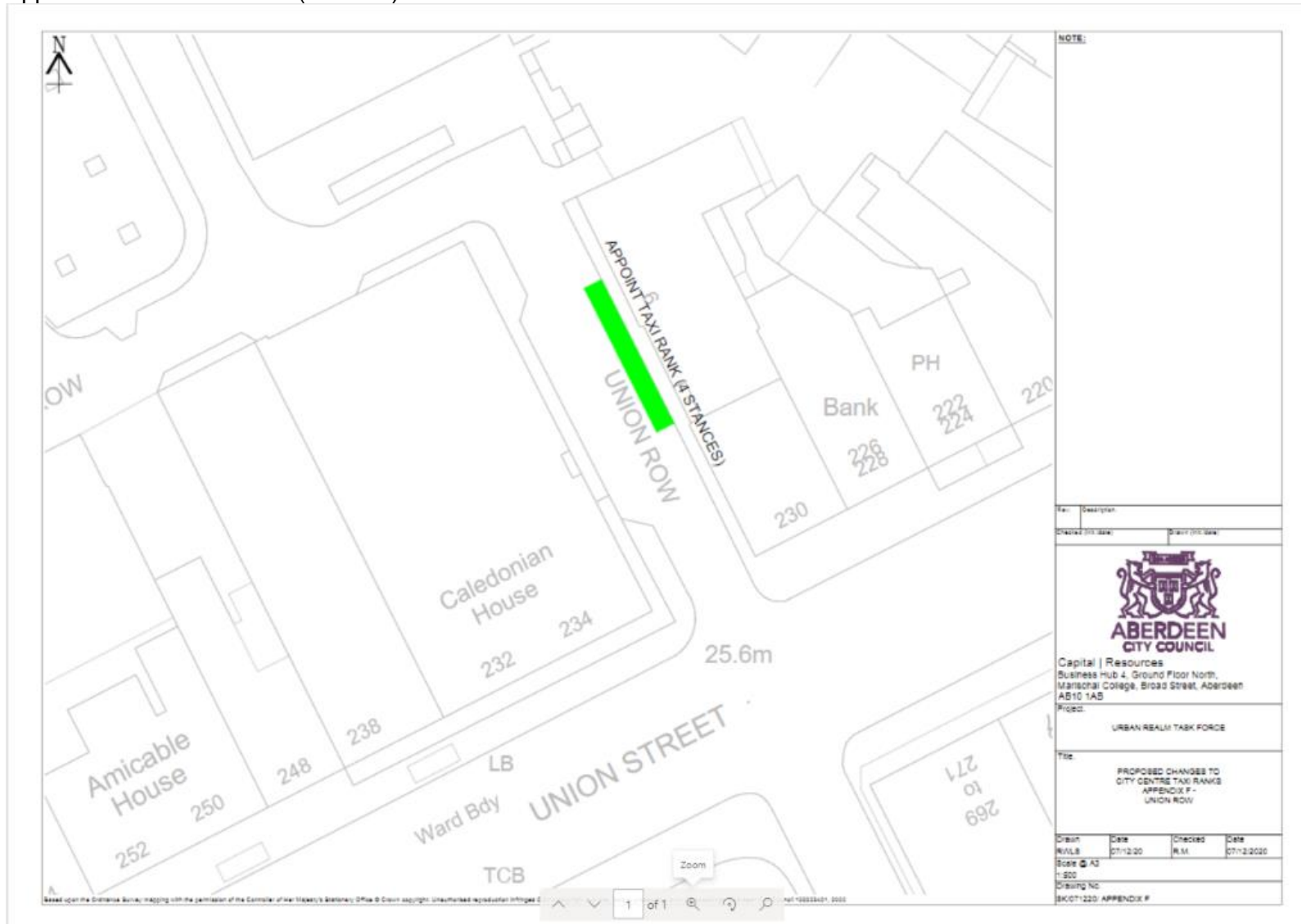


NOTE:


Rev	Description		
Checked (Job Name)	Checked (Job Name)		
 ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL			
Capital Resources Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AB			
Project: URBAN REALM TASK FORCE			
Title: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY CENTRE TAXI RANKS APPENDIX E - EXCHEQUER ROW/ SHIP ROW			
Drawn	Date	Checked	Date
R.W.S	07/12/20	R.M.	07/12/2020
Scale @ A3			
1:500			
Drawing No.			
SIC/071220/APPENDIX E			

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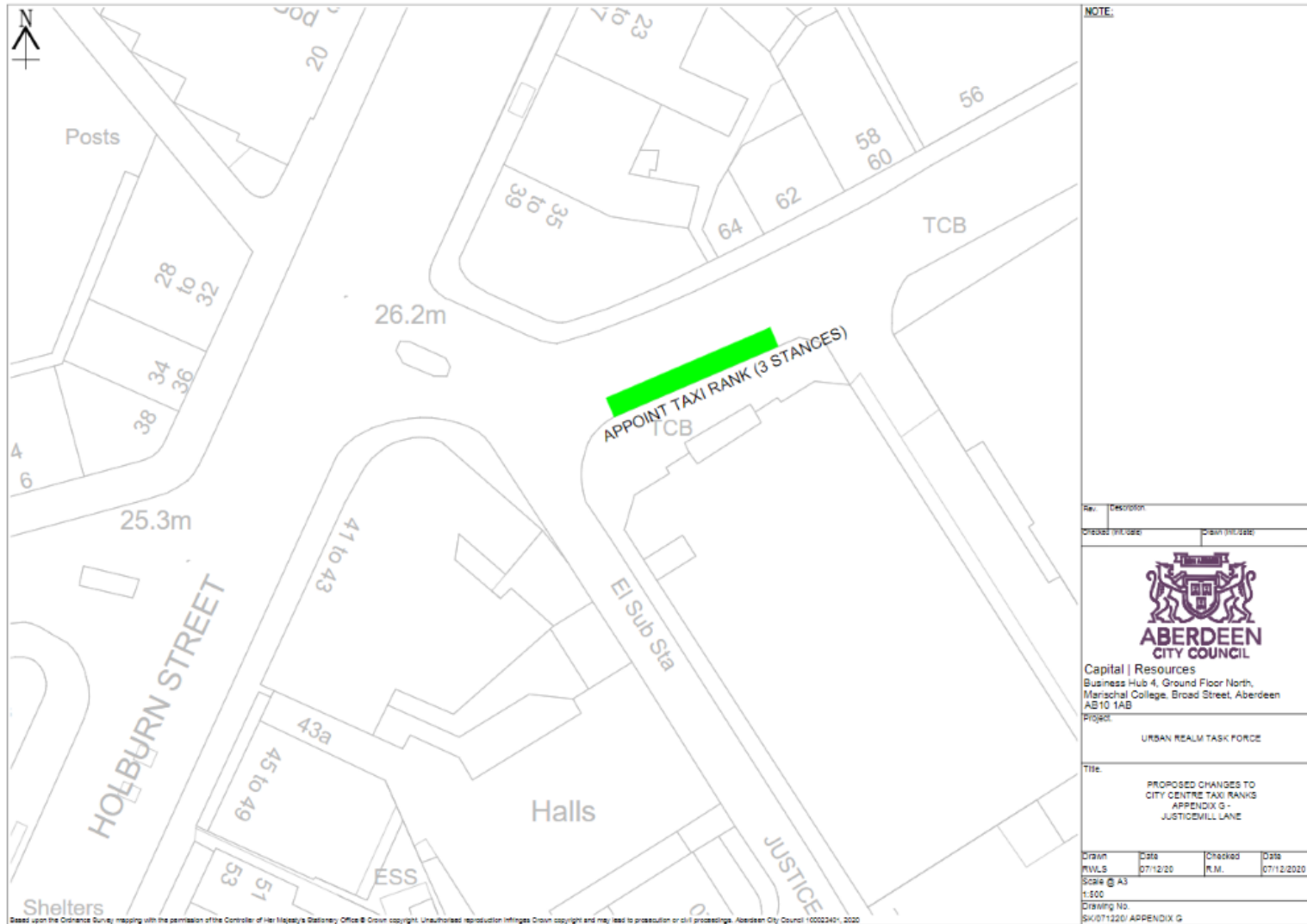
Appendix F –UNION ROW (Addition)



NOTE:


No.	Description		
Created (DD/MM)	Drawn (DD/MM)		
 ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL Capital Resources Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North, Mansel College, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AB Project: URBAN REALM TASK FORCE			
Title: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY CENTRE TAXI RANKS APPENDIX F - UNION ROW			
Drawn	Date	Checked	Date
N/A/LB	07/12/20	R.M.	07/12/2020
Scale: A3			
1:500			
Drawing No:			
BK07/220 APPENDIX F			

Appendix G – JUSTICE MILL LANE (Addition)



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NOTE:

Rev.	Description		
Created (M/D/YY)	Drawn (M/D/YY)		
 ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL Capital Resources Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AB Project: URBAN REALM TASK FORCE			
Title: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY CENTRE TAXI RANKS APPENDIX G - JUSTICE MILL LANE			
Drawn	Date	Checked	Date
M.V.L.S	07/12/20	R.M.	07/12/2020
Scale: A3			
1:500			
Drawing No: SK/071220/ APPENDIX G			

Aberdeen City Council
PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAXI RANKS
Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Aberdeen City Council, as Licensing Authority in terms of Section 19 of the above Act, intends to review as a temporary measure, the location and capacity of the taxi ranks within the city as noted below-

Suspension- Full Time Ranks

- **Hadden Street- Partial**
South Side, Westbound Feeder Rank all (7 stances)
- **Back Wynd**
Entire Rank (15 stances)

Appointment- Full Time Ranks

- **Exchange Street**
West Side, Northbound (7 stances) from No2 Exchange Street to No 14 Exchange Street
- **Rosemount Viaduct**
North Side, Eastbound (12 stances) from St Marks church to Western edge of Bus shelter
- **Exchequer Row/Shiprow=**
East Side, Northbound (10 stances) from No 7 Shiprow to No 3 Exchequer Row with a gap on the corner at No 7 Exchequer Row
- **Union Row**
East Side, Southbound (4 stances) at No 6 Union Row
- **Justice Mill Lane**
South Side, Westbound (3 stances) opposite No 64 Justice Mill Lane

Any person wishing to comment with regards to the above consultation for consideration by the Licensing Authority should submit this in writing to the Licensing Team, Aberdeen City Council, by email only to licensing@aberdeencity.gov.uk no later than Wednesday 24th February 2021

Appendix 2 - Response to Public Consultation

OBJECTION 1

Suspension of full time taxi ranks

Back Wynd.

No credible reason why this rank cannot be reinstated. Back Wynd ,Little Belmont Street, Belmont Street. Easily accessible for the public and central for taxi routes. No consultation with public or taxi drivers. Apart from the selected few.

Hadden Street

This rank managed to work since lock down last year. Why suspend it now.

Proposal full time ranks.

Exchange Street

7 Spaces. Away from the main access for the public. Not easily seen or known by the public. Not accessible for elderly or infirm. Cobbled streets all the way. Plus public cars always park on it.

Rosemount Viaduct

12 Spaces. Absolute nonsense. Too far from centre of town. Not accessible for people with heavy shopping to walk. Again elderly and infirm would struggle. Plus nobody would know a rank is there. Reinstat Back Wynd.

Exchequer Row/Shiprow

10 Spaces. How do you expect public to know it exists. Too far from town centre for people to walk. On a steep hill, quite narrow, and cobbled. Hidden from view.

Union Row

4 Spaces. Always been there. Rarely used

Justice Mill Lane

3 Spaces. Where has this stupid proposal come from. Obviously not a taxi driver and I would doubt it came from a member of the public.

In my opinion a driver could sit there all day and never get any work. Nonsense.

Obviously this is my comments regarding these ludicrous proposals. I even doubt if the public has seen it in the paper as I struggled to find it.

Hopefully sense will prevail and these proposed catastrophic changes will not be implemented.

Regards