

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR CONSULTATION GROUP - 22 JUNE 2021

TAXI RANKS

4. The Consultation Group had before them a paper submitted by Russell McLeod, Rainbow Cars relating to Taxi Ranks, specifically the need to identify extra rank space, which would serve the public and taxi drivers.

In his paper, Russell explained that at present there was not a rank to service Marischal Square, although, last year this option was looked at, but with the ongoing work at both Greyfriars Church and at McKay's, it was not a realistic option. He indicated that these works were now complete and it would be beneficial to the public, to have a taxi rank with 8 to 10 spaces located on the south side of Queen Street, from the junction with Broad Street. He advised that this would make it more visual for anyone at Marischal Square, or on Broad Street. He intimated that there was a kerb drop for access to parking at the Town House, however this could be left clear and Queen Street was now almost a dead area of town, therefore Taxis could access from the south side of Broad Street, turn right into Queen Street, use the current turning circle and join the rank at the appropriate place. He also made reference to the rank that had been created on Exchequer Row, which required improved signing and made known to taxi drivers and the public.

During discussion, the Group noted:-

- that the Transport Operators and Users Group had been replaced by the newly established Accessible City Transport Users Partnership (ACTUP), a new group set-up to discuss transport projects within the city, and would include updates on Spaces for People interventions. Officers would ensure that one, or possibly two taxi representatives would be invited to attend ACTUP, and the Public Transport Users Group which is now in place specifically for the current Spaces for People measures;
- that following the last Licensing Committee meeting, additional directional signage for taxi ranks had been instructed, although they had yet to be received and installed in the city centre;
- that the taxi trade and members of the public were unaware of the location of the current temporary taxi ranks; and
- that a report was being considered by the City Growth and Resources Committee on 24 June 2021 relating to the Spaces for People interventions.

Ross Stevenson, Engineer, Operations and Protective Services indicated that information on the on the temporary taxi rank plan (restrictions in the city centre) had been published and distributed to the taxi trade.

Sandy Munro, Legal Adviser outlined the legal process for establishing a new taxi rank and responded to questions from members of the Group.

The Consultation Group resolved:-

- (i) to note that officers would install temporary taxi rank signage at Shiprow;
- (ii) to note the concerns of the taxi trade in terms of the current taxi rank measures in place in the city centre; and
- (iii) to recommend to the Licensing Committee, at their next meeting to commence the process of installing a taxi rank on Queen Street.