

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: Licensing

DATE: 17 September 2013

DIRECTOR: Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT: Taxi Demand Survey – Rank Specific  
Recommendations

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/13/163

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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to update the Committee regarding the taxi rank specific recommendations, in light of the information in the Taxi Demand Survey by the Transport Research Institute, Taxi Studies Group Edinburgh Napier University.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes the contents of this report and;
- b) Instructs officers of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure and Legal and Democratic Services to commence the legal procedures for the installation of a new taxi rank located on George Street.
- c) Instructs officers of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure and Legal and Democratic Services not to commence the legal procedures for the installation of a new taxi rank located on Rosemount Viaduct at this time.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs can be met within existing budgets costing.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Resources – The procedures being followed are effectively a rank review, which is being carried out as a result of the Survey recommendations rather than as a stand alone measure investigated by Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure.

Consultation on the rank recommendations has taken place and further procedures are required to complete the process, which will be required to be carried out by officers of Legal and

Democratic Services and the Environment, Planning and Infrastructure Service.

## 5.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 In 2011 Edinburgh Napier University carried out a taxi demand survey in Aberdeen at the request of the Licensing Committee. Members are referred to the Survey, copies of which are available online at:

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/mqConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=17214>

The taxi survey resulted in a number of recommendations that provide the Committee with specific rank by rank options to improve the operation of taxi services in the city. The survey report advises that these recommendations should form part of a combination of measures, which includes the option of a taxi license limit. This should have a greater positive impact on taxi services than applying individual measures.

### 5.2 Union Square Area

The Survey report recommends the provision of a new rank to serve the market for taxis at Union Square. A Traffic Regulation Order is being promoted for Palmerston Road for the addition of a new taxi rank and is expected to be reported to the November 2013/January 2014 Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

### 5.3 Revocation of Taxi Ranks

The Survey findings suggested the revocation of existing taxi ranks which were unused at the following locations Justice Mill Lane, Frederick Street, Little Chapel Street, Rubislaw Place, Diamond Street and Exchequer Row. The revocation of the above taxi ranks is expected to be reported to the January 2014 Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure.

The revocation of the Bridge Street taxi rank has been completed.

### 5.4 Additional Taxi Ranks

The Licensing Committee instructed officers to carry out informal consultations with residents, businesses and taxi representatives regarding the installation of additional ranks at various specified locations in the City Centre.

Two responses, one from a resident, and one from a business have been received raising concerns regarding installing new taxi ranks at locations on Rosemount Viaduct and George Street respectfully.

One response has been received from taxi representatives highlighting a desire to install a new taxi rank on George Street

however no response has been received from taxi representatives with regards to the proposed Rosemount Viaduct taxi rank.

Therefore it is proposed to carry out the legislative process for the proposed new taxi rank on George Street but no further action be taken with regards to the proposed new taxi rank on Rosemount Viaduct as there appears to be no desire or apparent appetite to install ranks at this location from taxi representatives.

Officers have carried out initial investigations into the installation of a rank on Upperkirkgate however this has not been progressed further due to the regeneration of the St Nicholas House site.

#### 5.6 Review of Taxi Rank Signage and Road Markings

The Survey report recommended that a common standard of signage and road markings be applied to all city taxi ranks to make ranks more identifiable to the travelling public. Officers will complete the required site surveys when resources become available.

### 6. IMPACT

Corporate – The Council's city centre policies will benefit from improvements to taxi rank provision in the City. Successful implementation of the recommendations would support the Council's duty towards the public as the licensing authority in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Public - This report is likely to be of interest to the public, as it relates to taxi rank provision in the city centre. It also has an impact in terms of the safety of the public whilst waiting at ranks.

Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment – An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment was not required for this report as there are no significant changes to the existing schemes which would impact on communities.

### 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

City of Aberdeen Taxi Demand Survey, by TRI (Transport Research Institute, Taxi Studies Group, Edinburgh Napier University)

### 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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