



Committee and Date  
Strategic Licensing  
Committee

16 March 2011  
10.00am

Item

**7**

Public

## Hackney Carriages Ranks

**Responsible Officer** David Edwards, Head of Trading Standards.

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### Summary

Shropshire Council holds Taxi Forums on a regular basis to engage with the taxi and private hire sectors. At these Forums a range of representations have been made in respect of the provision of ranks for Hackney Carriages. This report sets out the current position in relation to the most recent requests for additional provision.

### Recommendation

That Strategic Licensing Committee:-

- A) Note the current position in respect of additional provision of Hackney Carriage ranks and notify the Licensing Officer of any requests for additional ranks.

### Report

1. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 enables a local authority to create hackney carriage stands. These are known as ranks when they enable taxis to queue.
2. Hackney carriages, but not private hire vehicles, are able to ply for hire from these stands.
3. Taxi ranks are in place in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Ludlow and Market Drayton, as shown in Table 1, however over time the most appropriate position for ranks is liable to change due to a range of factors affecting the local economies of the towns. Therefore ranks that were once well sited may become quiet and unused.

**Table 1**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Location</b>
Shrewsbury	Wood Street, Raven Meadows
Oswestry	Leg Street Willow Street Cross Street The Cross
Ludlow	The Bullring Broad Street Castle Street Corve Street King Street Mill Street
Market Drayton	Queen Street

4. Ranks may be provided on the public highway and, with the consent of the landowner, on private land, and there are examples of each in Shropshire.
5. Competition for road space is fierce, with on-street parking and disabled parking provision often in direct competition for desirable road locations. Shropshire Council, as the Highways Authority, must balance the needs of all users in determining appropriate road uses at the locations most favoured by the Hackney trade.
6. A traffic Order is in place to regulate the use of ranks in Shropshire, and in the event that a rank needs to be moved, or an additional rank(s) created, then certain steps need to be followed in order for them to be legally designated.
7. Ranks must be properly signposted and marked to give them legal effect, and where the ranks are combined with loading bays the respective times of operation must be clearly displayed.
8. There are currently two projects underway to create additional rank space, one in Shrewsbury and one in Oswestry.
9. There will be a rank capable of containing two vehicles off Abbey Foregate. This will be signposted and marked during the week beginning 21 March, and it is intended that this will be effective from April 2011.
10. In Oswestry additional rank space will be provided for at least two vehicles on Willow Street during the evening, and this is also due to be marked in March/April 2011.

11. Representations have been made by Ludlow hackney carriage drivers for further ranks in the town. Although there is already significant provision in the town, it is argued that the existing ranks are not all in usable positions. Initially, following informal consultation with drivers at the Upper Galdeford rank the highways team has been asked to consult on extending the front of that rank by one space. Local members have been consulted on this proposal and enquiries continue. At the recent Taxi forum representations were made regarding further ranks such as at the railway station. These requests will be explored with the highways team.
12. Representations have also been made by Shrewsbury hackney drivers in respect of the need for further ranks in Shrewsbury. Enquiries into possible locations have already been explored with the highways team, but to date difficulties have been encountered in locating suitable sites. A detailed examination of the options will be undertaken by licensing officers after which new representations will be made to the highways team.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The Committee is required to consider the consequences any recommendation on the applicant's human rights.

**Environmental Appraisal**

Appropriate provision of ranks will have a positive impact on traffic movement through reduced congestion.

**Risk Management Appraisal**

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

The Highways Authority consults with local Members and councils in advance of the determination of a hackney stand.

**Cabinet Member**

Cecilia Motley

**Local Member**

N/A

**Appendices**