



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(Epsom and Ewell)**

**Epsom Town Centre
Extension to Clock Tower Taxi Rank
and Proposed Loading Restrictions**

13 September 2010

KEY ISSUE

To consider the proposal of the introduction of an extension to the existing taxi rank adjacent to the Clock Tower on High Street, Epsom. The introduction of a new loading restriction in the layby adjacent to the Clock Tower on High Street, Epsom.

SUMMARY

A request, from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, has been received by Surrey Highways Parking Strategy and Implementation Group to consider the extension of the existing taxi rank in the lay-by adjacent to the Clock Tower on High Street, Epsom from 3 taxis to provision for 5 taxis.

To Consider the implementation of a No Waiting at Any Time restriction within the lay-by adjacent to the Clock Tower on High Street, Epsom.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Epsom and Ewell) is asked to agree:

- (i) To approve the proposals as detailed in Annexe 1 on the grounds that it will help ease demand for taxi parking within the town centre and have no perceived negative impact on traffic movements or safety on the highway.

- (ii) For the proposed No loading at any time restriction - that the County Council's intention to make an order under the Road Traffic Regulation act 1984 be advertised and, if no objections are maintained, the order be made;
- (iii) That if objections are received the Parking Strategy and Implementation Group Manager is authorised to try and resolve them.
- (iv) That if objections cannot be resolved, they are reported to a future meeting of the Local Committee for consideration and decision.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There is currently a perceived shortage of spaces for taxis to wait within the town centre.
- 1.2 Epsom and Ewell B.C. has agreed the extension of the rank at the Clock Tower from 3 to 5 spaces. They have, as necessary, requested the consent of Surrey County Council as the highway authority to implement this.
- 1.3 In order for the rank to operate efficiently it would be necessary to introduce a 'No loading at any time' restriction within the lay-by to protect it from vehicles stopping and also from mini cabs using it as a 'car park'.
- 1.4 The Borough Council would deal with the legal aspect of the extension to the rank using their powers under the Local Government (misc provisions) Act.
- 1.5 It would be necessary for the County Council to advertise the proposed introduction of the loading restrictions as shown on drawing number Com/01, attached as Annexe 1.

2 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Implementation would comprise of supply and erection of sign plates and placement of associated markings. In order to keep costs to a minimum and minimise potential street clutter, signs would be placed on existing street furniture where possible.

3 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Surrey Highways is mindful of equalities and diversity in relation to its activities and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

3.2 All licensed taxis are equipped to carry persons with disabilities and the proposed provisions may be considered to be of particular benefit to this group.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Ready access to transport would help reduce the potential for groups of people and vulnerable individuals to be waiting on Epsom's streets at night. As this can be the time when unruly behaviour is most likely to occur, there may be positive implications for crime and disorder.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The taxi ranks have the potential to improve transport facilities for visitors to the town centre.

5.2 There are no resources to increase the level of parking enforcement within Epsom town centre during the late evening period with the result that the taxi ranks may be misused by drivers of private cars and mini cabs.

5.3 It is recommended that the taxi ranks and loading restrictions are approved.

6 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The measures are expected to help encourage taxis to seek custom within the town centre and enhance the economic vitality of the area.

7 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

7.1 If the proposals are approved, the Borough Council would advertise the extension of the rank and the County Council would advertise the loading restrictions.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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