



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

TAXI RANK PROPOSALS

16 MARCH 2009

KEY ISSUE & SUMMARY

To obtain Committee approval for the bus stop clearway amendment at High Street, Staines and for the taxi ranks proposed by Spelthorne Borough Council.

Spelthorne Borough Council propose to introduce several taxi ranks, two of which are on the public highway, and to remove an existing taxi rank. A designation notice for a taxi rank must be advertised by the borough under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, subject to the approval of this Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree that:

- (i) the bus stop clearway at High Street, Staines is amended to apply only between the hours of 06.00 and 23.00 daily and a taxi rank operates there between 23:00 and 06:00hrs daily as shown at **Annex A**;
- (ii) the proposed extension to the taxi rank on Gresham Road, Staines as shown at **Annex B** is approved; and
- (iii) the removal of the existing taxi rank on High Street, Shepperton as shown at **Annex C** is approved.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The introduction of taxi ranks on the public highway can only be successful through a co-ordinated approach between Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council.
- 1.2 While Surrey County Council is the Highway Authority, the necessary order must be made by the borough council under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The bus stop clearway on High Street, Staines, adjacent to The Boundary Public House, Staines is proposed as a joint bus stop / taxi rank with the two functions operating at different times as exists on Thames Street, adjacent to Debenhams.
- 2.2 The bus stop clearway therefore requires alteration. It is proposed that the bus stop clearway operates between the hours of 06:00 and 23:00hrs daily and the taxi rank operates between 23:00 and 06:00hrs daily.
- 2.3 Approval is required from the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) prior to the implementation of the combined bus stop clearway and taxi rank.
- 2.4 Spelthorne Borough Council propose to extend the taxi rank on Gresham Road, Staines from space for three taxis to space for five taxis. Members may recall that waiting restrictions are proposed around the bend on Gresham Road to the west of the existing taxi rank. That amendment was advertised by Public Notice with receipt of objections required by 11 March 2009. Taxi drivers often wait around the bend on Gresham Road and this extension, combined with the proposed double yellow lines, should control the road space where taxis wait and improve road safety.
- 2.5 The existing taxi rank on High Street, Shepperton is proposed to be removed due to its low level of use.
- 2.6 Spelthorne Borough Council consider the proposal on High Street would benefit the travelling public after public transport services have ceased and the extended taxi rank on Gresham Road would improve links with the railway station.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The bus stop clearway that is proposed to be amended at **Annex A** would become dual use, if approved

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1.1 Informal consultation has taken place between Surrey County Council, Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey Police.
- 4.1.2 The County's Passenger Transport Group has been consulted on the dual use of the bus stop on High Street and would like it recorded that if at any future time buses were to operate along Thames Street / High Street, Staines after 23.00 hours or before 06.00 hours that this proposed taxi rank, and the rank o/s Debenhams be de-commissioned or the hours of operation suitably adjusted.
- 4.1.3 These proposals were discussed at the On Street Parking Partnership meeting, held on 10 March 2009.
- 4.1.4 Approval is required with GOSE regarding the combined bus stop and taxi rank proposal, which we await.
- 4.1.5 Subject to the approval of this report, Spelthorne Borough Council will undertake formal consultation in accordance with Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The statutory advertising for the taxi ranks is required by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which will be funded by Spelthorne Borough Council.
- 5.2 The cost of the signing and lining to implement the proposed taxi ranks will be funded by Spelthorne Borough Council.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Signing and lining of the proposed taxi ranks in accordance with The Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2002 and the Traffic Signs Manual will enable enforcement to be carried out.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Spelthorne Borough Council wishes to implement new taxi ranks at key locations across the borough and to remove one taxi rank.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To support Spelthorne Council's proposals to improve the taxi operation across the Borough.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Subject to no unresolved objection to Spelthorne Council's public notice for the provision of taxi ranks and the approval for a dual use bus stop clearway / taxi rank from GOSE, alterations to taxi ranks will be implemented as described in this report.

LEAD OFFICER: Annette Williamson, Local Highway Manager

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009

E-MAIL: WAH@surreycc.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: As above

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL:

BACKGROUND PAPERS: