

# **Appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at Station Road East in Oxted**

## **Community Services Committee**

**Tuesday, 17 January 2023**

Report of: Executive Head of Communities

---

Purpose: For decision

---

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: Oxted North and Tandridge

---

### **Executive summary:**

To determine appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers) following a works order received by Surrey County Councils Highway and transport department.

---

### **This report supports the Council's priority of:**

Creating the homes, infrastructure and environment we need.

**Contact officer** Jeannette Pickles  
jpickles@tandridge.gov.uk

---

### **Recommendation to Committee:**

- A. To approve appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).
- B. If the Committee is minded to approve appointing the stand for Hackney carriages as proposed, Officers will then advertise in the local press allowing 28 days for comments to be submitted to the Council.
- C. Subject to no objections being received during the consultation period, the appointment of the stand for Hackney carriages as proposed will be constructed.

---

## **Reason for recommendation:**

- To appoint the stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).
- To appoint the stand for Hackney carriages, it is necessary to give public notice in accordance with Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- To allow the appointment of the stand for Hackney carriages to be publicly advertised. If any objections are received to the public consultation, these objections must be considered by the Committee.

---

## **Introduction**

- 1.1 Taxi stands are a common feature in many towns and provides a location where licensed Hackney carriage vehicles (taxis) can legally wait for a passenger, rather than drive around town waiting to be hailed. Local authorities can adopt areas on streets or private land as taxi stands under section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Act) 1976.
- 1.2 In the taxi trade representative group meeting in October 2021, the layout of the taxi stand at Station Road East was raised by the taxi drivers as a safety issue for drivers and passengers. This group is compiled of 10 Hackney carriage and private hire drivers, the senior licensing officer, licensing officer and a Surrey Police Tandridge Neighbourhood Team member to discuss any matters related to Hackney carriages and private hires.
- 1.3 A traffic regulation order has been approved from Surrey County Councils Highway and Transport department, to remove the stand from the centre of the road at Station Road East, and introduce a stand at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers), Station Road East.

---

## **Background**

- 2.1 The current taxi stand at Station Road East in Oxted located in the centre of the carriageway was adopted by the Council, to hold 4 vehicles and to operate 24 hours a day. The proposal is to appoint the taxi stand to the side of the carriageway to also hold 4 vehicles and to operate 24 hours a day. Here is a photograph to demonstrate the location of change:



**CURRENT**

**SCC APPROVED**

- 2.2 Appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers) will improve public safety by allowing passengers to enter and exit taxis safely from the pavement. This will also improve traffic flow by allowing more space for vehicles to manoeuvre.
- 2.3 Surrey County Council were contacted by the taxi trade for the change in the layout due to safety. Pedestrians wanting a taxi need to walk in the middle of the road to speak to the driver and to get into the vehicle. Other vehicles using the parking bays or picking up/dropping off passengers, especially with the size of modern cars, have to squeeze past parked vehicles in the parking bays and the taxis in the taxi stand.
- 2.4 On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council approved the proposed changes in layout of the Station Road East taxi stand under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Relevant sections of the report and the decision notice are attached as **Appendix 'A'**.
- 2.5 Following the request by the trade and the approval from the Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council, Surrey County Council formally advertised in the Surrey Mirror newspaper, by putting notices on street light columns and parking bay signs and sent postcards to local addresses advising them that changes to parking were planned with a link to their website with the full details. This consultation was for a 28 day period ending on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for comments and objections. In respect of this consultation, there were no comments received. Further information regarding the consultation can be found at **Appendix 'B'**.
- 2.6 An initial report was due before Members in September 2022 however following contact from Councillor Wren the report was pulled and further information was sought from the Highways and Transport team at Surrey County Council.

- 2.7 As the Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council approved the change of layout and there were no objections received, the traffic regulation order which authorised this area to be used as 1 hour parking has been repealed and amended to allow for the area to be used as a taxi stand and not for parking therefore is currently an unenforceable area.
- 2.8 The decision on the layout has already been made by the Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council as detailed in **Appendix 'A'**.
- 2.9 The taxi licensing department has recently received 2 emails from Tandridge licensed taxi drivers reporting that the layout of the taxi stand causes issues for them, their passengers and other road users. These are attached as **Appendix 'C'**.
- 2.10 The decision for this Committee is under section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Act) 1976, for the Council to appoint a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).
- 2.11 Subject to the approval of the Committee, Surrey County Council Highway have included the relocation of the taxi stand in the current works order.

---

## **Consultation**

- 3.1 Public consultation will occur immediately after Committee decision if the proposal is agreed. The consultation shall not be less than twenty eight days from the date of the first publication of the notice.
- 3.2 If no objections are received during the consultation period, the appointment of the stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 will be approved.
- 3.3 If any objections are received to the public consultation, these objections must be considered by the Committee.

---

## **Key implications**

### **Comments of the Chief Finance Officer**

- 4.1 The recommendations contained in this report have no direct financial implications to the Council.

## **Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

5.1 There are no particular legal implications provided section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is complied with and all relevant considerations are taken into account including any local transport plan. The power for District Councils to create hackney carriage stands (more commonly referred to as taxi ranks) is contained in Section 63(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This legislation enables District Councils to create taxi ranks in any highway in the District that is maintainable at public expense, with the consent of the Highway Authority. Before creating a rank the District Council must give notice to Surrey Police and consider any responses received as a result of public consultation. This consultation process must allow a minimum of 28 days for people to respond to a public notice that advertises the proposal.

---

## **Equality**

6.1 Should this proposal be approved, this change of layout will have a positive impact by improving access for all passengers. The changes will make a positive impact towards: Road safety, access for emergency vehicles, access for refuse vehicles, easing traffic congestion, controlling parking and public safety.

---

## **Climate change**

7.1 There are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

---

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 'A'** – Relevant sections of the report and the decision notice of the Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

**Appendix 'B'** – Emails detailing further information regarding the SCC consultation

**Appendix 'C'** – Emails received from drivers

---

## **Background papers**

- Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 - Agenda, minutes and decision notice:  
<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=8042&Ver=4>

----- end of report -----