

**TO:** SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**SUBJECT:** Taxi Ranks

**BY:** Head of Technical Services

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** Report for members to consider results of recent consultation exercises carried out with properties in various areas of proposed taxi ranks or taxi ranks for proposed amendment.

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**Implications:** Human Resources Implications – None

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Finance Implications – None

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Legal Implications – Proposed Traffic Orders to be Considered

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Crime & Disorder Implications – None

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Sustainability Implications – None

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Risk Implications – None

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**Decision Required:** **That Members note the report and recommend that officers implement the following taxi rank installation:**

- **Hope Way, Sheerness**

**That Members note the report and recommend that officers do not implement the following taxi rank installation:**

- **High Street, Sheerness**

**That Members note the report and recommend that officers implement the extension of the following taxi rank:**

- **Central Avenue, Sittingbourne**
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#### Introduction/Background

1. Consultation has been carried out with local property owners and statutory consultees in relation to the proposed installation of two new taxi ranks in Hope Way and High Street, Sheerness, and the proposed extension of the existing taxi rank in Central Avenue, Sittingbourne. These proposals have come from various sources such as taxi drivers' petitions and other correspondence.

2. The consultation material has been included in Annex A

#### Issue for decision

3. Based on the results of the consultation, decisions are requested as to whether to proceed with the proposals to install two new taxi ranks and extend one existing taxi rank. The results of the consultation have been included within Annex B. All three locations will be discussed in turn in the following paragraphs

## Recommendation

### 4. Proposed Taxi Rank – High Street, Sheerness

Following receipt of a petition from local taxi drivers, consultation was carried out on proposals to install a taxi rank in the existing parking area in Sheerness High Street, to the South of the clock tower at the junction of Broadway. Of the 22 consultation letters sent out, 9 letters were returned, 1 in agreement with the proposals and 8 against. In view of the high number of objections, mainly concerned about the number of parking spaces that would be lost for shoppers, and noise and pollution caused by the introduction of a taxi rank at this location, we recommend that these proposals are not implemented.

### 5. Proposed Taxi Rank – Hope Way, Sheerness

Following a request from taxi operators in the area, consultation was carried out on proposals to install a taxi rank in Hope Way, Sheerness, at the rear of Sheerness Library. Of the 5 consultation letters sent out, 1 letter was returned, neither agreeing or disagreeing to the proposals but requesting that the taxi rank include “keep clear” markings adjacent to the rear doors of the library to facilitate daily loading and unloading. In view of these results, we recommend that the installation of the proposed taxi rank be implemented.

### 6. Proposed Extension to Taxi Rank – Central Avenue, Sittingbourne

Following a request from local taxi operators, consultation was carried out on proposals to extend the existing taxi rank in Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, near the Post Office. This extension would replace the current parking area currently restricted to parking for 30 minutes. Of the 4 consultation letters sent out, 2 letters were returned, 1 in agreement to the proposals and 1 against. Although the objection refers to the loss of short term parking, there are other areas of parking available to the public in this road. Furthermore, the increase in size to the taxi rank would encourage more use. We therefore recommend that these proposals be implemented.

## Reasons for the Recommendation

### 7. High Street, Sheerness

High number of objections from local properties and only one letter in agreement with proposals.

### 8. Hope Way, Sheerness

Taxi rank at this location would be beneficial to High Street shoppers without inconveniencing local residents and businesses, and would not result in the loss of valuable parking spaces.

### 9. Central Avenue, Sittingbourne

Increased use of taxi rank outweighs loss of some parking spaces in Central Avenue.

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Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006

List of background documents –  
Annex A – Copies of Consultation Material  
Annex B – Results of Consultation