

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 15th March 2010
SUBJECT: RIGHT TURN AT PARK ROAD/HIGH STREET,
SITTINGBOURNE
BY: Head of Service Delivery
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To consider a recommendation from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles Committee and Sittingbourne Local Engagement Forum that Kent Highways be requested to consider amending the traffic order so that Taxis as well as Busses would be allowed to make the right turn at the junction of Park Road into the High Street, Sittingbourne

Implications: Human Resources Implications: None

Finance Implications: None

Legal Implications: None.

Crime & Disorder Implications (Section 17): None

Equalities & Diversity Implications: None

Sustainability Implications: Hackney Carriages play an important role in the provision of public transport in the Borough and provide a positive impact to sustainable transport.

Risk Implications: None

Corporate Plan Implications: Priority 3: Promoting a Safer & Stronger Community - priority for action SSC7

Decision Required: **That Kent Highways be requested to consider amending the Traffic Order restricting the right turn at the junction of Park Road and High Street, Sittingbourne to allow an exemption for taxis in addition to buses.**

Introduction

1. At a recent hackney carriage operators liaison meeting an operator raised the issue of the banned right turn for all vehicles with the exception of buses at the junction of Park Road and High Street, Sittingbourne. The point was made that the prevention of the right turn for taxis added a significant additional distance and hence cost to the customer wanting to be taken to the town centre.
2. In many areas such turning restrictions and restricted routes such as bus lanes allow an exemption to all public transport vehicles including taxis.

Proposal

3. This matter was reported to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles committee on 15th February and Members were in support of the request to amend the turning restrictions because of the benefit of the reduced taxi fare that would result for a passenger wanting to access the High Street area. However, the Committee considered that the view of local Members should be sought and therefore asked for the matter to be considered by the Local Engagement Forum.

4. The Local Engagement Forum considered the issue at its meeting on 2 March 2010. Members made a number of comments regarding the safety of the proposal and the need for a full safety audit. Concern was also raised that car drivers would think they could also turn right and at the level of enforcement of anyone that violated the traffic order.

5. As an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order would be required to allow the right turn at the Park Road/High Street junction the issue would need to be referred to Kent Highways to consider and agree to an amendment to the Traffic Order and necessary changes to the signing.

6. Kent Highways be requested to consider amending the Traffic Order restricting the right turn at the junction of Park Road and High Street, Sittingbourne to allow an exemption for taxis in addition to buses

Author - Brian Planner - Ext. 7357

8 March 2010

List of background documents:

- Report to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles Committee on 15th February 2010.
- Report to Sittingbourne area Forum on 2nd March 2010.