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Regulatory Committee

Wednesday, 11 March 2026 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Butler'.

Interim Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Pamela Wallace (Chair)
Councillor John Abbott (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Victoria Begg
Councillor Irene Bramwell
Councillor Mike Fry
Councillor Colin Hughes
Councillor Kath Loftus
Councillor Alan Lowe
Councillor Stef Nelson
Councillor Gareth Stockton
Councillor Kevan Wainwright

Please contact [Kim.Butler](mailto:kim.butler@halton.gov.uk) on 0151 5117496 or e-mail kim.butler@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Committee is to be confirmed.

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 2
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
3. TAXI RANKS	3 - 16
4. SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	

PART II

In this case the Committee has a discretion to exclude the press and public and, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it is **RECOMMENDED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

5. TAXI LICENSING MATTER	17 - 23
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 in the The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), Begg, Bramwell, K. Loftus, Nelson and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Fry and Hughes

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Wilson-Lagan, K. Hesketh and C. Harrison

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

REG3 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2025 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

REG4 LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee received a report setting out the results of consultation exercise on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy (“the draft Policy”) which had been considered by Members at the previous Regulatory Meeting on 2 July 2025. The current Policy was due to expire on 6 January 2026 and a new policy needed to be in place by 7 January 2026. One consultation response had been received by Cheshire Police which proposed that the reference to the Arc-Angel scheme at paragraph 103 in the draft Policy be removed as this scheme was no longer in force and replaced by the recognised schemes that are currently in place, namely Best Bar None and Licensing Savi.

As this amendment was minor and not one of substance, Officers did not consider it was necessary to consult and recommended the draft Policy be updated

with the amendment proposed by Cheshire Police. The Committee agreed and approved the draft Statement of Policy with the minor amendment by Cheshire Police and recommended it be adopted by Council accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approve:

- 1) the draft Statement of Licensing Policy, as set out in Appendix A, and that it be recommended to full Council for adoption; and
- 2) an appropriate form of wording for the Council resolution would be "The Council"
 - a) adopts the Statement of Licensing Policy attached to the report to come into effect immediately following the expiry of the current policy on 6 January 2026; and
 - b) the Director of Legal and Democratic Services publishes the Statement in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

Meeting ended at 6.54 p.m.

REPORT:	Regulatory Committee
DATE:	11 March 2026
REPORTING OFFICER:	Director – Legal and Democratic Services
PORTFOLIO:	Resources
SUBJECT:	Taxi Ranks
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek approval for the appointment of one hackney carriage stand as part of the Runcorn High Street Connectivity Scheme and to remove two existing hackney carriage stands from The Halton Borough Council (Various Hackney Carriage Stands, Widnes and Runcorn) Order 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That the Committee considers the contents of this report and the information detailed in the attached appendices;
- 2.2. That the proposals detailed in **Appendix A** (showing proposed amendments in red, in respect of the proposed removal of Stands 16 and 20 and the proposed appointment of Stand 23) be referred to the Executive Board with the recommendation that the Executive Board authorise the Director - Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the required public consultation in accordance with Section 63 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 taking into consideration any representations which may be made by the Regulatory Committee in respect thereof;
- 2.3. That the Executive Board further authorise the Director - Legal and Democratic Services to fulfil all procedural requirements relating to the proposals detailed in Appendix A in accordance with Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 including the making of and affixing of the Council seal to the appropriate Order in the event that the public consultation does not produce any objections.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1. The Council's current taxi rank provision is attached to this report at **Appendix B**.
- 3.2. The proposed amendments to the Taxi Rank Orders are set out below

RUNCORN

Stand Number	Location	Current times/proposed time	Amended Proposals
16	High Street (opposite side of road from Chambers)	Anytime	Revoke
20	High Street lay-by immediately east of entrance to Co-op	20.00 to 06.00	Revoke
23	Alcock Street (behind the current bus station)	Anytime	New

- 3.3 The removal of stand 16 and 20 and the proposed new taxi rank stand 23, is part of Runcorn High Street Connectivity Scheme which forms part of the Runcorn Town Deal which was agreed in 2021, this scheme will include improvements to the public realm including walking and cycling facilities, bus station improvements and a new taxi rank facility. Stand 16 is no longer required due to reduction in footfall following the recent closure of a licensed premises and because the remaining businesses and licensed premises are located further into the town. Stand 20 will be revoked and replaced with proposed new stand 23 with a proposal to increase operating times.
- 3.4 The revocation of taxi ranks at stands 16 and 20 and the appointment of a new taxi rank stand 23, shall provide additional waiting spaces for taxis in a new location closer to town centre facilities and busy licensed premises. Stand 23 is proposed to be located alongside the bus station, which will provide an important transport hub for the residents of Halton.
- 3.5 Stand 20 is currently a time restricted taxi rank (operating at night between the hours of 20.00 and 06.00). The proposed new taxi rank (at Stand 23) shall provide increased operation times, thereby improving the service to the customers due to the central and busy location. The location of the proposed taxi rank can be found at **Appendix C** of this report.
- 3.6 Attached at **Appendix D** are the current ranks which are proposed to be revoked, stand 16 (High Street opposite side of road from Chambers) and stand 20 (High Street lay-by immediately east of entrance to Co-op car park)
- 3.7 New signage will be erected advising the public of the new transport hub which will include the new taxi rank.
- 3.8 Although the proposal is to remove two taxi ranks in the town centre, there are still a number of official taxi ranks in the town, below are the details of the current and remaining ranks in Runcorn Town Centre.

Stand Number	Location	Current times	Number of vehicles
14	Public Hall Street	Anytime	8
18	Bridge Street (outside of the Wilsons Public House)	22.00 to 06.00	4
19	High Street (outside Bargain Booze and Mersey Road)	Anytime	8

3.9 Previous consultations have been undertaken with the trade in mid-2023 to make them aware of the proposed changes. The details of the project have been shared via the Councils website and an event at the Brindley, following comments received from the consultation they were passed on the Councils Transport and Planning Policy Team who reviewed all the comments/suggestions, a further email correspondence was shared with the trade at the end of 2023, requesting any further comments to the proposal to be sent to the team by the 20th January 2024. The comments and suggestions that have been received have been incorporated into decisions made in relation to the new taxi rank (stand 23) in Runcorn and the design of the rank.

3.10 Attached at **Appendix E** is section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 which provides the details for stands for hackney carriages and the powers the Licensing Team has in relation to appointing and revoking stands.

4. **JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

4.1. The Committee is responsible for determining the Council's policies in connection with the grant, variation, suspension or revocation of licences relating to taxi and private matters (see Terms of Reference of the Regulatory Committee part 17B Council Constitution).

4.2. The Constitution must now be interpreted in accordance with the case of R (on the application of 007 Stratford Taxis Limited v Stratford on Avon District Council 2011. This Court of Appeal decision interpreted the meaning of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 in respect of matters which must be dealt with by a Council's Executive or by a Committee of its Council. Essentially, the Court held that; (1) It was clear that individual applications relating to taxi matters must be dealt with by the equivalent of this Council's Regulatory Committee and (2) matters calculated to facilitate, or be conducive or incidental to such applications must also be dealt with in the same way but (3) any 'plan or strategy' associated with

such a function would be an executive function and therefore have to be determined by a Council's Executive. The Stratford case concerned the introduction of a wheelchair access policy. The decision was taken by the Council's Cabinet rather than its Licensing Committee. The challenge from the taxi trade was that the Licensing Committee should have adopted the policy. This element of the challenge was rejected by the court.

- 4.3. Consequently, any decision of the Regulatory Committee on matters contained in this agenda will be by the recommendation to the Executive Board.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. If approved by the Executive Board, the Director – Legal and Democratic Services shall be authorised to conduct a public consultation under Section 63 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 with a view to amending the present Taxi Rank Order in due course, depending on the outcome of the public consultation. If the consultation produces objections, the matter will be referred back to the Regulatory Committee (and subsequently the Executive Board) for final decision.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. The cost of implementing the recommended changes, by way of providing new signage to be displayed at the site of each amended hackney carriage rank, must be met through the Taxi Licensing budget.

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

- 7.1. **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None

- 7.2. **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

None

- 7.3. **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

None

- 7.4. **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

None

- 7.5. **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None

7.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

None

8. RISK ANALYSIS

8.1. None

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1. There are no equality or diversity issues related to the review.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are no climate change implications since the decision will have no effect on the environment.

11. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
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Taxi Rank Orders	Legal Services	Kim Hesketh
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Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Taxi Rank Order with proposed amendments

Appendix B – List of Hackney Carriage Stands

Appendix C – Plan showing proposed new taxi rank as Stand 23

Appendix D – Plan showing taxi ranks at Stands 16 and 20

Appendix E – Extract of section 63 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

APPENDIX A

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (VARIOUS HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS, WIDNES AND RUNCORN) ORDER, 2018 (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2026

The Halton Borough Council in exercise of the powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 63 ('the 1976 Act') and all other enabling powers after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police hereby makes the following order:-

CITATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. This Order shall come into operation on _____ and may be cited as the Halton Borough Council (Various Hackney Carriage Stands, Widnes and Runcorn) Order 2018 (Amendment) Order 2026

2. In this Order:-

'the Council' means the Council of the Borough of Halton

'hackney carriage' has the same meaning as the 1847 Act

'the 1847 Act' means the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 with respect to hackney carriages

'the 1984 Act' means the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or any enactment which the 1984 Act superseded

'the 2018 Order' means the Halton Borough Council (Various Hackney Carriage Stands, Widnes and Runcorn) Order 2018

'Hackney Carriage Stands' means those stands appointed as stands for hackney carriages by the 2018 Order as detailed in the Schedule and Order Plan to the 2018 Order.

'the Order Plan' means the Order Plan described in and attached to the 2018 Order.

AMENDMENT

3. This Order amends and supplements the 2018 Order which shall remain in full force and effect except to the extent that it is amended by the provisions of this Order.

4. Any provisions contained in any existing Order made by the Council under the 1984 Act which is inconsistent with any of the provisions contained in this Order are hereby revoked solely to that extent.

APPOINTMENT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS

5. The stands described in Part I of the Schedule and shown on the Plan to this Order are hereby appointed stands for hackney carriages for the whole or any part of a day as therein described and for the numbers of vehicles therein described.
6. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle other than a hackney carriage to wait on any stand for hackney carriages during any period for which that stand has been appointed or is deemed to have been appointed by the Council under the provisions of section 63 of the 1976 Act.

REVOCAION OF EXISTING HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS

7. The Hackney Carriage Stands described in Part II of the Schedule to this Order, as shown on the Order Plan numbered HCS 16 and HCS 20, are hereby revoked.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE COUNCIL

of THE BOROUGH OF HALTON was

hereunto affixed in the presence of:

Authorised Signatory

OFFICIAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS REGULATED BY
HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 63 OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

PART I: APPOINTMENT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS

RUNCORN

Stand number	Location	Order Plan number	Permitted maximum number of vehicles	Permitted times of use
23	Alcock Street (behind the bus station)	HCS 23	8	Anytime

PART II: REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS

Stand number	Location	Order Plan number	Permitted maximum number of vehicles	Permitted times of use
16	High Street (opposite side of road from Chambers)	HCS 16	5	Revoke (changed from 2200 to 0600)
20	High Street lay-by immediately east of entrance to Co-op car-park	HCS 20	6	Revoke (changed from 2200 to 0600)

APPENDIX B**OFFICIAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS REGULATED BY
HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 63 OF****THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976****WIDNES**

Stand number	Location	Order plan number	Permitted maximum number of vehicles	Permitted times of use
1	Market Street	HCS 1	7	2100 - 0600
2	Alforde Street	HCS 2	6	2100 - 0600
3	Hale Road	HCS 3	8	Any
4	Upton Lane	HCS 4	3	Any
5	Dickson Street	HCS 5	5	Any
6	Victoria Square	HCS 6	8	2100 - 0600
7	Prescot Road	HCS 7	4	Any
8	Appleton Village	HCS 8	10	0000 – 0800 & 0930 – 1430 & 1630 - 0000
9	Cronton Lane	HCS 9	4	Any
10	Widnes Road	HCS 10	8	2300 - 0600
11	Albert Road (outside Wetherspoons)	HCS 11	3	Any
12	Albert Road (feeder rank to Wetherspoons)	HCS 12	3	1800 - 0600
13	Albert Road (outside Imperial)	HCS 13	3	Any

RUNCORN

Stand number	Location	Order Plan number	Permitted maximum number of vehicles	Permitted times of use
14	Public Hall Street	HCS 14	8	Any
15	Shopping City (off Second Avenue)	HCS 15	3	Any
16	High Street (opposite side of road from Chambers)	HCS 16	5	2200 - 0600
18	Bridge Street (in front of The Wilsons)	HCS 18	4	2200 - 0600
19	High Street (outside Bargain Booze and Mersey Road)	HCS 19	8	Any
20	High Street lay-by immediately east of entrance to Co-op car park	HCS 20	6	2000 - 0600
21	Shaw Street	HCS 21	2	Anytime
22	Shaw Street	HCS 22	5	Anytime

Notes:

16

MAX. VEHICLES - 5
2200 - 0600

REVISIONS



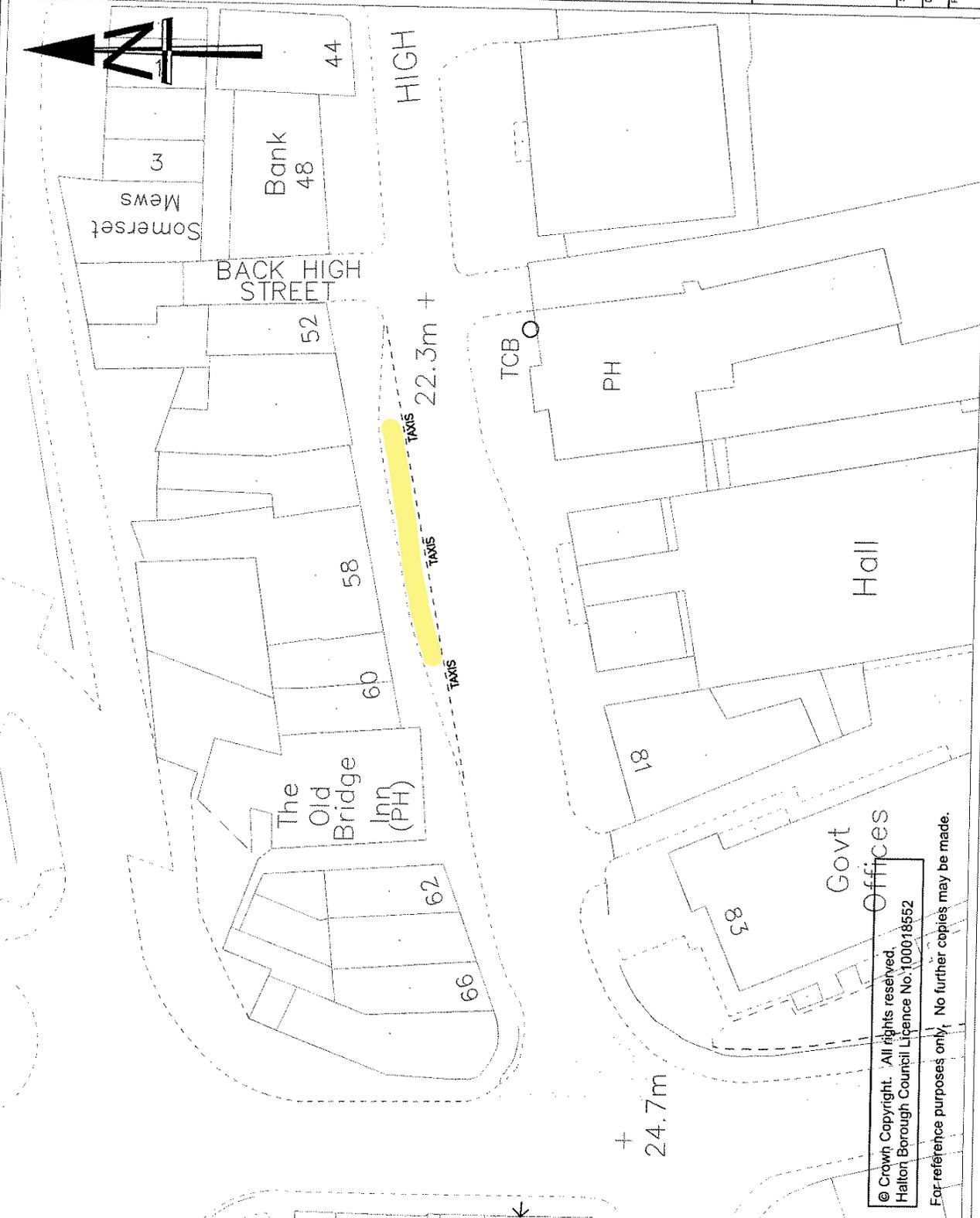
POLICY, PLANNING &

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

M Noone BA (Hons) MSc C Eng MICE MCHIT CMILT
Operational Director
Municipal Building, Kingsway
Kilnec, WA8 7DF Tel: 0303 333 1400

HIGH STREET
TAXI RANK

Scale: 1:500
Date: 07/18
Drawn by: JLB
Plan No:
Created by:
Rev:



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NOTES

20

MAX. VEHICLES - 6
2000 - 0600

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

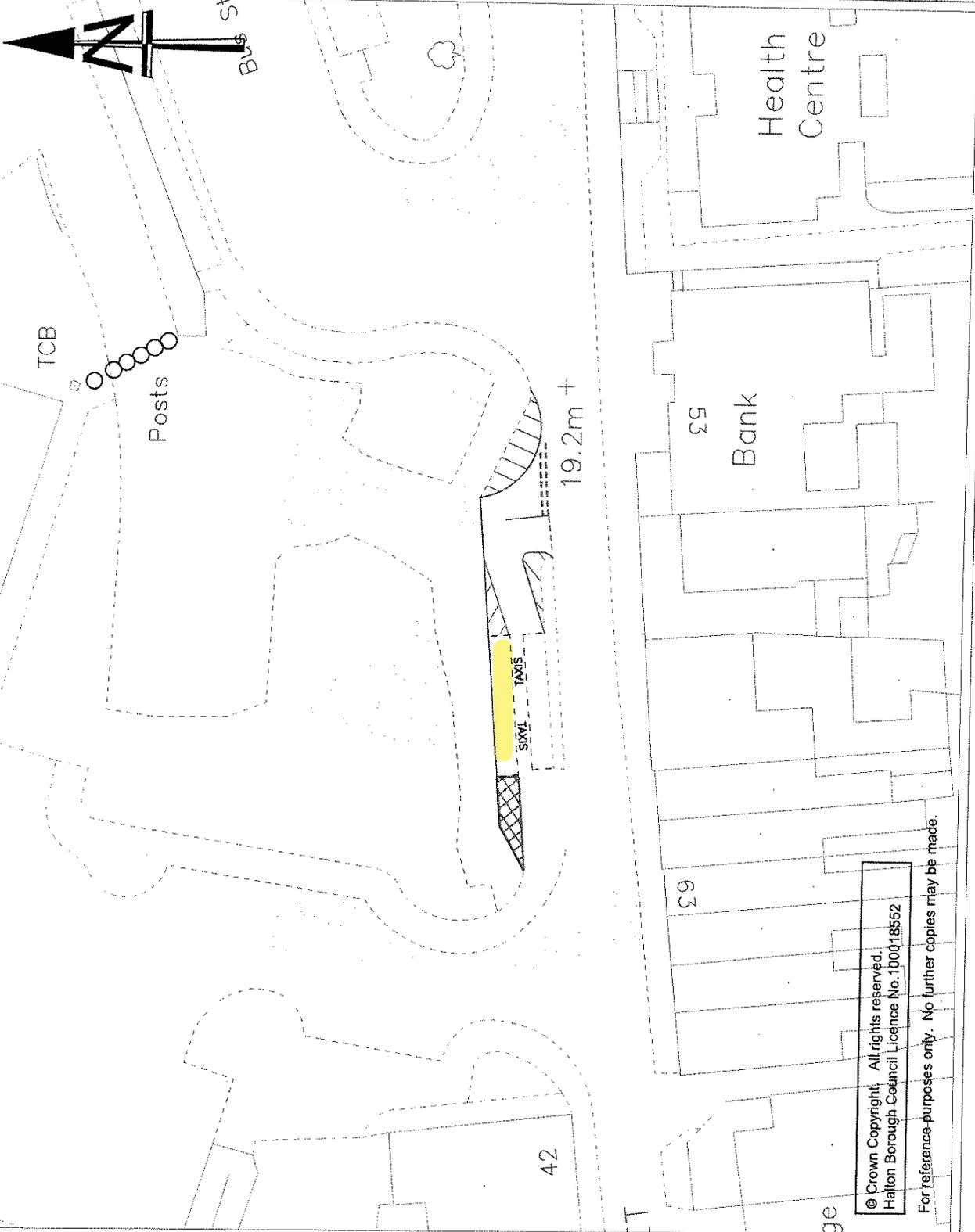


HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
POLICY, PLANNING &
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
M Moore BA (Hons) MSc C Eng MICE MCH-1 CMILT
Operational Director
Municipal Building, Kingsway
Warrers, Wakefield - Tel: 01924 333 4300

HIGH STREET
(EAST OF CO-OP CAR PARK
ENTRANCE)

TAXI RANK

Scale: 1:500	Date: 07/18
Drawn by: JLB	Checked by:
Plan No:	Rev:



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APPENIDX E

63 Stands for hackney carriages.

(1) For the purposes of their functions under the Act of 1847, a district council may from time to time appoint stands for hackney carriages for the whole or any part of a day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at the public expense and, with the consent of the owner, on any land in the district which does not form part of a highway so maintainable and may from time to time vary the number of hackney carriages permitted to be at each stand.

(2) Before appointing any stand for hackney carriages or varying the number of hackney carriages to be at each stand in exercise of the powers of this section, a district council shall give notice to the chief officer of police for the police area in which the stand is situated and shall also give public notice of the proposal by advertisement in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district and shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposal which may be made to them in writing within twenty-eight days of the first publication of such notice.

(3) Nothing in this section shall empower a district council to appoint any such stand—

(a) so as unreasonably to prevent access to any premises;

(b) so as to impede the use of any points authorised to be used in connection with a **[F1]**local service within the meaning of the Transport Act 1985 **[F2]**or PSV operator's licence granted under **[F3]**the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981 **]]**, as points for the taking up or setting down of passengers, or in such a position as to interfere unreasonably with access to any station or depot of any passenger road transport operators, except with the consent of those operators;

(c) on any highway except with the consent of the highway authority;

and in deciding the position of stands a district council shall have regard to the position of any bus stops for the time being in use.

(4) Any hackney carriage byelaws for fixing stands for hackney carriages which were made by a district council before the date when this section comes into force in the area of the council and are in force immediately before that date shall cease to have effect, but any stands fixed by such byelaws shall be deemed to have been appointed under this section.

(5) The power to appoint stands for hackney carriages under subsection (1) of this section shall include power to revoke such appointment and to alter any stand so

appointed and the expressions “appointing” and “appoint” in subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall be construed accordingly.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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