

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION TO  
A MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

**Taxi Rank in Lower Bridge Street, Walsall**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Taxi Liaison Group on the progress of the request from the Licensing and Safety Committee that the taxi rank in Lower Bridge Street should be moved from the west to the east side of the road.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The group is asked to consider the compromise offered by the Disabled Forum and, if deemed satisfactory, recommend referral to the Licensing and Safety Committee for determination.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There is a financial implication of *circa* £2000 for legal orders and road markings which will be paid out of the Engineering and Transportation budget.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

**6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 6.1 The Disabled Forum recognises that both able bodied and disabled persons use taxis the compromise extends and benefits all members of the community.

**7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 None

**8.0 WARD(S) AFFECTED**

- 8.1 St Matthews

**9.0 CONSULTEES**

## 9.1 Disabled Forum

### 10.0 BACKGROUND

- 10.1 At the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 a number of options were discussed and a consultation exercise was agreed to obtain the views of the Disabled groups in Walsall and taxi drivers on the swapping of the taxi rank with the blue badge parking bays.
- 10.2 The consultation produced a good response from the taxi drivers however the response from the disabled groups was disappointing as only one response was received.
- 10.3 The results were that each taxi driver voted for the change and the lone response from the disabled group voted for the status quo.
- 10.4 Due to the low response from the disabled groups it was decided to hold a meeting with them to establish if they had understood fully the implications of the consultation.
- 10.5 The disabled forum recognise that both able bodied and disabled persons use taxis for inclusion and mobility, however they also recognise that there is a significant lack of blue badge parking spaces within Walsall and this proposal would have a detrimental impact for their members.
- 10.6 In addition to this they have highlighted a danger to disembarking from a vehicle in a wheelchair on to the pavement on the west of the road as the profile (slope) of the pavement is in excess of the recommended profile and could cause head injuries should the wheelchair topple over.
- 10.7 As a compromise, the disabled forum are willing to swap over approximately half of the blue badge parking places with the taxi rank. The provisos for this are that the blue badge parking places are not reduced in number and that the blue badge parking places are at the front of the parking areas.
- 10.8 If this is not accepted the disabled forum has requested a meeting with all parties concerned.