

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILLICENSING COMMITTEE16 August 2016Report by Chief Officer – Legal & ProcurementCIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 –
AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING TAXI RANKS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. For the Committee to consider a request from Roads and Transportation Department regarding some amendments to existing taxi ranks within east Renfrewshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Licensing Committee is asked to consider the following:-
- a) Reduce the taxi rank at Gilmour Street, Eaglesham to two spaces;
 - b) Remove the taxi rank at Merryvale Place, Giffnock;
 - c) Remove the taxi rank within Cochrane Street Car Park, Barrhead;
 - d) Approve in principle a new taxi rank at or near the new Eastwood Health and Care Centre, Drumby Crescent, Clarkston for two taxis to operate 8am to 6pm only, the exact location to be agreed with the operators of the Health Centre and or ERC Roads and Transportation section.

REPORT

3. The Licensing Committee is asked to consider some amendments as follows:-
- a) Gilmour Street, Eaglesham - reduce the rank from 4 taxis to 2 taxis. Roads and Transportation Department have received a grant from Charge Place Scotland to install an on-street rapid charger for electric vehicles in Eaglesham. The location of the existing taxi rank is the preferred location as the road is centralised, sufficiently large enough, and there is a nearby power supply to connect the charger.
 - b) Merryvale Place, Giffnock – remove the rank completely as it is no longer used or needed.
 - c) Cochrane Street Car Park, Barrhead – the taxi rank has physically been removed however it required to be legally removed.

It is also proposed to install a new taxi rank to be located at or near the new Eastwood Health and Care Centre, Drumby Crescent. The Committee is asked to consider this

proposal to provide additional public transport to users of the health centre. The rank would also provide taxis for the nearby Williamwood train station.

CONSULTATION

4. As this change only affects holders of taxi vehicle licences, those licence holders have been notified of the potential changes and given the opportunity to make comments on the changes, no further consultation was deemed necessary.

Comments received are as follows:

1. I personally have no objection to the proposals from roads and transportation department, however, I would urge you to consider the installation of a new taxi rank at the new health and care centre in Williamwood, this would also serve the rail station. Can I take this opportunity to ask about the proposed “new” Clarkston rank we talked about last year, moving from the inept mearns road site to the logistically correct site on Busby Road, beside the railway station.
2. No issues with reducing the Gilmour Street, Eaglesham rank to 2 taxis. No issue with legally removing rank at Cochrane Street Car Park, Barrhead. No issue with removing rank at Merryvale Place, Giffnock. Eastwood Health and Care Centre, Clarkston – I strongly feel that there should be a rank at this location. My understanding is that there are 5 doctor practices moving to that new location, along with the Clarkston Clinic and that there will be demand for taxis. I do wonder if this letter has come too late, as having driven round the car park for the new centre, all the line painting and signage appears to have been done with no taxi rank evident.

On a separate note, was there not an agreement to put in a taxi rank an Mearns Cross? If so, should that not be in place already?

3. I have no objections to the amendments of the taxi ranks mentioned in your letter dated 21 July and glad to see the proposal of a new rank at Eastwood Health Centre (as long as Eastwood Mearns don't put in a Freephone)! I would also hope for a rank beside the largest shopping centre in the area of The Avenue in Mearns if the council are really serious about providing a service to the public and especially disabled.
4. I am in agreement with the proposals in your recent letter. I am also for having a rank at the new clinic in Williamwood. Since I am writing to you, I thought I would mention how frustrating it is to have private hire cars parked with site of public hire ranks. It is a rule that never seems to be enforced and understandably confused the public. The general public won't know the difference between public hire and private hire vehicles or the insurance implications. Are the council going to actively crack down on this?

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REPORT AUTHOR

Report Author

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Background Papers