A meeting of the Hackney Carriage Stands Task Group will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 2 October 2014 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor Mrs Garcia
Chairman

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2014.
2. Apologies – to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: *Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.*

*Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.*
4. Consultation.

5. Business of next meeting – please bring your diaries to the meeting.

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information.

Membership of the Task Group:

Councillors Mrs Garcia (Chairman), Buckley, Butlin, Mistry, Mrs Roodhouse and Sandison

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer (01788 533522 or e-mail linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer named above.
Consultation

The business for this meeting is to agree a questionnaire and invitations to give evidence, and to finalise any other aspects of the information-gathering campaign.

In readiness for this the draft documents listed below are appended, and the main business of the meeting is to finalise these.

1. Call for evidence – users
2. Call for evidence – businesses
3. Call for evidence – drivers and operators
4. Questionnaire
5. Media release

The questionnaire can be promoted by displaying notices by the clock tower rank and in public buildings, and by using social media and the website. The calls for evidence to business and to drivers and operators can be sent to them direct, either by post or by email if we have their email addresses.

It is important to keep the consultation as simple as possible and to avoid straying beyond the subject of taxi rank provision. The purpose of this consultation is to get some evidence of public opinion on which solutions will be worth investigating further. The task group will be able to hold more detailed consultations with a range of organisations who either have a stake in the outcome of the review or who are able to provide useful information. To ease pressure on meeting time, the responses to these more specific consultations could take the form of written submissions, though representatives of organisations could be invited to a meeting instead.

It should be borne in mind that, if new hackney carriage stand orders are proposed, there will have to be a 28 day statutory consultation. This will be in addition to any consultation carried out as part of the review.

Business of the next meeting

In the agreed work programme, meetings three and four will deal with the following business:

Meeting three – Analysis of responses; decide whether additional provision is necessary; if so, preliminary discussion of possible location(s).

Meeting four – identification of location(s) in conjunction with county council officer; improving information for the customer.
Depending on the scale of response to the consultation, there may be too much business for meeting three to fit into one meeting, and a decision on this will need to be made closer to the time.

Paul Ansell
Scrutiny Officer

26 September 2014
A task group of councillors is conducting a review on whether there is a need for an additional taxi rank in the town centre and, if there is a need, to identify a suitable site.

The task group recognises that good transport is important to visitors to the town centre, whether they are daytime shoppers, business people, tourists, or night-time users of our pubs, clubs and restaurants.

The group would like to know what taxi users think of the present taxi rank provision:

- Do you experience any difficulties as a result of there being just one principal taxi rank, or are you generally satisfied with the present provision?

- If there is a need for an additional taxi rank, where do you think the best location would be?

Please complete the quick online questionnaire at XXXXXXXXXXXX

If you would like to say more, please submit your views by email to scrutiny@rugby.gov.uk

Closing date XXXXXXXXXXX

Members of the public are invited to attend meetings of the task group. The next meeting is on XXXXXXXX
A task group of councillors is conducting a review on whether there is a need for an additional taxi rank in the town centre and, if there is a need, to identify a suitable site.

The task group recognises that effective transport systems are important to visitors to the town centre, whether they are daytime shoppers, business people, tourists, or night-time users of our pubs, clubs and restaurants.

The group would be grateful for any evidence you are able to submit to support the task groups enquiries on the following:

- Do we need an additional taxi rank? If so, why?
- If there is a need for an additional taxi rank, where should it be sited?

The group would also welcome any other observations you may have on the impact on businesses and customers of the siting of taxi ranks.

Please submit your evidence by email to scrutiny@rugby.gov.uk

Alternatively, complete the quick online questionnaire at XXXXXXXXXXXX

Closing date XXXXXXXXXX

Members of the public are invited to attend meetings of the task group. The next meeting is on XXXXXXXX
Appendix 3

DRAFT

Review of Hackney Carriage Stands

Call for evidence from hackney carriage drivers and operators

A task group of councillors is conducting a review on the need for an additional taxi rank in the town centre and, if there is a need, to identify a suitable site.

The group would be grateful for evidence you are able to submit to support the task group’s enquiries on the following:

- Does having just one principal rank present you or your customers with any particular problems. If so, what are they?

- Would you or your passengers benefit from having an additional taxi rank?

- If you think there is a need for an additional rank, in which area of the town centre do you think it might be sited? Can you suggest a place that would attract both passengers and drivers?

Any other comments on this subject are welcome but please remember that this review is specifically about the siting of taxi ranks and not about other issues that may be of concern to the trade.

Please submit your evidence by email to scrutiny@rugby.gov.uk

Closing date XXXXXXXXXX

Alternatively complete the quick online questionnaire at www.rugby.gov.uk/XXXXX

Members of the public are invited to attend meetings of the task group. The next meeting is on XXXXXXXX
Taxi ranks online questionnaire

Are you – (tick all that apply)

Someone who visits the town centre and uses taxis?
Operator of a town centre business?
A taxi driver?
A taxi operator?
None of these

If you use taxis from the rank, what time of day do you most frequently do so?

Morning
Afternoon
Early evening
Late evening
After midnight
Not a user

How convenient do you find having just the existing main taxi rank?

Very convenient
Quite convenient
Adequate
Quite inconvenient
Very inconvenient

Would you like to see an additional taxi rank in the town centre?

Yes
No
Don’t know

If you would like an additional taxi rank, what area of the town centre would you prefer for it? Bear in mind that a taxi rank can be created to operate only between certain hours (eg night time only) so roads that are congested during the day are not necessarily disqualified. Select maximum of three.

Newbold Road
High Street/Sheep Street
Little Church Street
Corporation Street/Asda/Library area
Warwick Street/Dunchurch Road/St Matthew’s Street
Lawrence Sheriff Street/Barby Road
Park Road
Regent Place
Regent Street/Bank Street/Henry Street/top of Albert Street
Castle Street/Gas Street area
Clifton Road
Top of Railway Terrace

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. If you would like to say more, please submit your views by email to scrutiny@rugby.gov.uk

Closing date XXXXXXXXXXX
A task group of councillors is conducting a review on whether there is a need for an additional taxi rank in the town centre and, if there is a need, to identify a suitable site.

Effective transport systems are important to visitors to the town centre, whether they are daytime shoppers, business people, tourists, or night-time customers of our pubs, clubs and restaurants.

However, there are perceived problems at the clock tower rank. These include excessive numbers of taxis, causing traffic congestion, and queues of waiting customers at busy times. Also, customers have to go to a single point to find a taxi, and this may be regarded as an inconvenience.

The chairman of the task group, Councillor Belinda Garcia, said, “[Something along the lines of: The service provided from the clock tower taxi rank makes a valuable contribution to the town centre economy. However, the existing rank was not designed to accommodate the large number of taxis that we now have in Rugby. Our review is seeking to find a solution that will benefit passengers as well as taxi drivers and operators.]”

The group wants to find out what passengers, town centre businesses and the taxi trade think. Complete the quick online questionnaire at www.rugby.gov.uk/XXX

Members of the public are invited to attend meetings of the task group. The next meeting is on XXXX.