

Delegated Report

Date: 5 September 2016

Agenda item: N/A

Ward: Abbey

Subject: Proposed Taxi Rank in Morden Road, South Wimbledon.

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration

Lead member: Councillor Martin Whelton Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing.

Contact Officer: Barry Copestake (020 8545 3840)

Key decision reference number: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member notes and considers the content of this report and approves the following recommendations

- 1) Notes the result of the statutory consultation carried out between 26th May and 17th June 2016 on the proposal to introduce a taxi rank to accommodate 2 taxis in Morden Road, South Wimbledon.
- 2) Notes that no objections have been received during the statutory consultation.
- 3) Agrees to proceed with the making of the relevant Traffic Management Orders (TMOs) and the implementation of a taxi rank in Morden Road, South Wimbledon, as shown in Drawing No.Z100-003-001 in Appendix A.
- 4) Agrees to exercise his discretion not to hold a public inquiry on the consultation process.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the undertaking of the statutory consultation and its outcome on the Councils' proposals to introduce a taxi rank, to accommodate 2 taxis, in Morden Road, South Wimbledon. The rank will operate Monday-Sunday between 10pm and 6.00am.
- 1.2 It seeks approval to proceed with the making of the relevant TMOs to introduce a taxi rank in Morden Road, South Wimbledon, SW19 as shown in Drawing No.Z100-003-001 in Appendix A.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In preparations for the Night Tube service introduced by the previous Mayor of London which covers the Central and Victoria lines and then on three other lines including the Northern line serving South Wimbledon station proposed for the Autumn of 2016, Transport for London (TfL) have been reviewing taxi rank provisions at London Underground stations. The purpose of the review has been to identify the need and suitable locations of ranks to accommodate those passengers leaving a Night Tube station who may wish to continue their journey by taxi easily and safely.
- 2.2 TfL and Council officers have worked in partnership in assessing the most suitable location for the proposed taxi rank. The following options were considered and rejected

- 2.2.1 Locate the taxi rank in Milner Road. However, it was considered that as it would be out of sight for passengers, it would not be the most suitable location for easy access. Officers also had safety concerns as patrons would probably attempt to run across 4 lanes of traffic to gain access to Milner Rd despite the fact that the signalised junction provides the appropriate crossing provisions. There would also be the need for some signs to direct patrons to the taxi rank.
- 2.2.2 Locate it further south from the proposed location. However, this would be outside residential properties and would be considered an unacceptable nuisance having taxis with engines running, slamming car doors etc throughout the night.
- 2.2.3 The current location is considered the most suitable location as it will be within immediate sightline of patrons as they exit the tube station; it would be on the footway and therefore passengers can gain safe access; it will not cause nuisance or hinder movement to other road users or local residents. More detail is provided in section 3 of this report.

3. PROPOSED MEASURES

- 3.1 In partnership with TfL, Council officers identified a suitable location as close as possible to South Wimbledon tube Station as shown in drawing No.Z100-003-001 in Appendix A.
- 3.2 The rank will be on the footway. The footway is 3.9m in width and there will be 1.9m clear access for pedestrians.
- 3.3 The taxi rank will be within an area where currently is used by Wimbledon Car & van hire to gain access by illegally driving over the footway. This business has a legitimate vehicular access to the site but over the years they have opened a second access without Council's approval. However, due to the hours of operation of the taxi rank (Monday-Sunday between 10pm and 6.00am), access will not be affected. This illegal manoeuvre will also be addressed through the Council's enforcement officers.
- 3.4 To ensure that flow of traffic along Morden Road is not hindered, the taxi rank will operate Monday-Sunday between 10pm and 6.00am and outside of these hours no vehicle will be permitted to stop.

4. STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The statutory consultation on the proposal to introduce a taxi rank in Morden Road commenced on 26th May 2016 and ended on 17th June 2016. The consultation included the erection of street Notices on lamp columns in the vicinity of the proposals and the publication of the Council's intentions in the Local Guardian and the London Gazette. Details and plans of the proposals, see appendix A, were also available on the Council's website and a link to this website was included on all street notices.
- 4.2 A newsletter was delivered to the vehicle rental business in the vicinity of the proposal, see Appendix B, however the business did not make a representation in response to the proposal.
- 4.3 The statutory consultation resulted in the Council receiving 2 representations in support of the proposals. These are detailed in appendix C.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 Do nothing. This would be contrary to the objectives of the proposal as expressed by TfL, and would not assist passengers exiting the stations at night who may wish to complete their journey using a Black cab. It would also do nothing to protect or reduce the risk of illegal and unlicensed 'cab' drivers.

6. TIMETABLE

- 6.1 If a decision is made to proceed with implementation of the proposed taxi rank, TMOs could be made six weeks after the made decision. This will include the erection of the Notices on lamp columns in the area, the publication of the Made Orders in the Local Guardian and the London Gazette. The documents will be made available at the Link, Civic Centre and on the Council's website. The rank will be introduced soon after.

7. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This work is estimated at approximately £5000 and will be funded by TfL.

8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Traffic Management Orders would be made under Section 6 and Section 45 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended). The Council is required by the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to give notice of its intention to make a Traffic Order (by publishing a draft traffic order). These regulations also require the Council to consider any representations received as a result of publishing the draft order.
- 8.2 The Council has discretion as to whether or not to hold a public inquiry before deciding whether or not to make a traffic management order or to modify the published draft order. A public inquiry should be held where it would provide further information, which would assist the Council in reaching a decision.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Council carries out careful consultation to ensure that all road users are given a fair opportunity to air their views and express their needs.
- 9.2 Bodies representing motorists, including commuters are included in the statutory consultation required for draft traffic management and similar orders.
- 9.3 The implementation of the proposal aims to assist the community at South Wimbledon Underground stations at night who may need access to licenced Black cab service.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

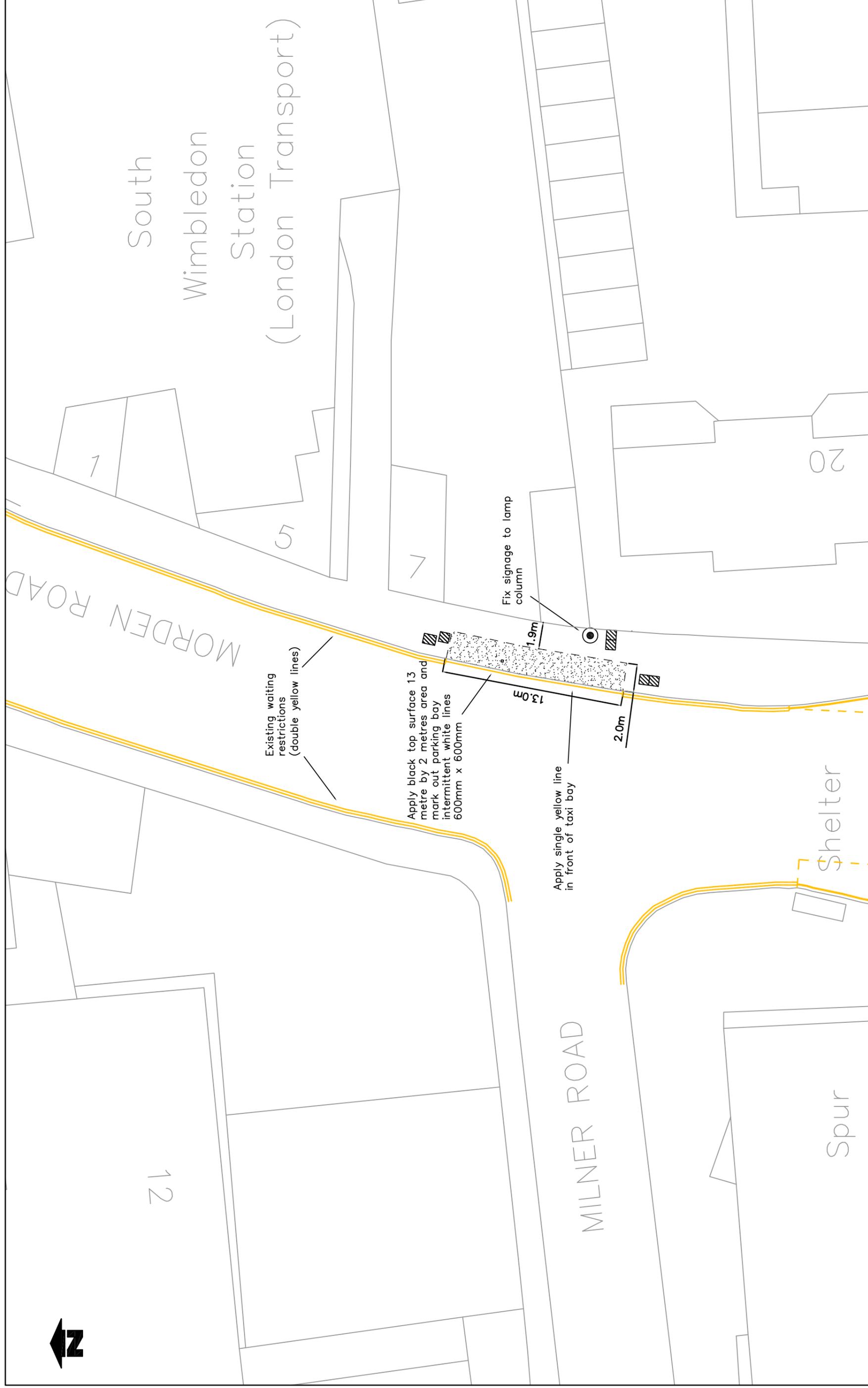
- 10.1 The proposal aims to reduce the risk to the community from illegal and unlicensed drivers.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The road safety implications/risks during construction and maintenance will be fully considered at each stage of the detailed design process.
- 11.2 The risk of not implementing the proposal would be that passengers exiting the stations at night who wish to further their journey by taxi could be at risk from illegal 'cab' drivers and unlicensed 'cab' drivers.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix A - Drawing No.Z100-003-001
- 12.2 Appendix B - Statutory consultation letter to business
- 12.3 Appendix C - Representations received



Notes
Do not scale from this drawing

| Rev. | Revisions | Drawn | Sig. | Date | Chd. | Sig. | Date | App. | Sig. | Date |
|------|-----------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
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| Drawn by | S.G.S. | Date | 00 May 2002 |
| Checked by | | Date | 00 May 2002 |
| Approved by | | Date | 00 May 2002 |

Sustainable Communities
environment & regeneration

TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

PROJECT
Morden Road, South Wimbledon

TITLE
Design Layout 'Night Tube' Taxi Rank

Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden, Surrey
SM4 5DX
www.merton.gov.uk

Drawing No. Z100-003-001
Revision -
Classification DRAFT
Scale 1:1250



Wimbledon Car & Van Hire
7 – 7a Morden Road
London
SW19 2HB

Future Merton
London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

Direct Line: 020 8545 4830
Fax: 020 8545 3038
Date: 26 May 2016

Dear Sir / Madam,

In co-operation with Transport for London (TfL) and in preparation for the scheduled 24 hours running at the weekends for the London Underground Northern Line at South Wimbledon Underground Station, we are proposing to introduce a taxi rank on Morden Road at the location as illustrated on the attached plan.

PROPOSED MEASURES

The proposed Taxi Rank will operate every night between 10pm - 6am. Outside of these hours waiting or stopping (parking) by any vehicle will not be allowed. The location of the Taxi Rank is to provide convenient taxi facilities for use by 'tube' passengers when returning home late at night or in the early morning hours.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

A Notice of the Council's intentions to make the relevant Traffic Management Orders (TMOs) for the required changes will be published in the local newspaper (The Guardian), London Gazette and posted on lamp columns in the vicinity.

All representations must be in writing by either emailing trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk

or to **Environment & Regeneration Department, futureMerton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX.**

All comments must be received no later than 17 June 2016 quoting reference **ES/TAXI_MORDEN_RD**

Objections must relate only to the elements of the scheme that are subject to this statutory consultation. The Council is required to give weight to the nature and content of your representations and not necessarily the quantity. Your reasons are therefore important to us.



Copies of the proposed Traffic Management Order (TMO), a plan identifying the area affected by the proposal and the Council's 'Statement of Reasons' can be inspected at Merton Link, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX during the Council's normal office hours Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

All representations along with Officers' comments and recommendations will be presented in the report to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration. Please note that responses to any representations received will not be made until a final decision is made by the Cabinet Member. Once a decision is made by the Cabinet Member all who made a representation will be informed accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Copestake
Traffic Engineer [futureMerton]
Environment and Regeneration|London Borough of Merton|
Direct Line: 020 8545 4830
Email: barry.copestake@merton.gov.uk
Merton Council - Putting You First

Appendix C - Representations received

ES/TAXI_MORDEN_RD 001

I fully support the proposal to implement a Licenced Taxi Rank outside the above Stn. If I may add a suggestion can we have signage inside/outside the Stn so the Public will know there is a Taxi rank just outside to the left. Maybe some signage to say we are disabled accessible as well could be a good idea.

ES/TAXI_MORDEN_RD 002

We fully support the proposal that would lead to the introduction of a two bay taxi rank opposite Milner Road. During the feasibility and design period for the rank we have been continually supportive of the proposal.

In preparations for the Night Tube service that the Mayor of London has announced will be introduced on 19 August 2016 on the Central and Victoria lines and then on three other lines including the Northern line serving South Wimbledon station in the Autumn of 2016 we have been reviewing new taxi rank arrangements at stations. The purpose of the review has been to identify where ranks are needed in order to help ensure that passengers leaving a Night Tube station and who want to continue their journey by taxi can do so easily and safely.

Having designated night time taxi ranks for these Night Tube stations will not only help ensure that passengers exiting the stations can easily and safely access taxi services but should also help reduce the risk to passengers from illegal 'cab' drivers and unlicensed 'cab' drivers.

Another benefit of introducing the taxi rank is that it will make it easier for people in the South Wimbledon station area to access taxis which are accessible. This is particularly important as all taxis (black cabs) are wheelchair accessible and have other accessibility features so our ambition is that by having a taxi rank close to the station anyone with accessibility requirements will still be able to take a taxi and complete their journey.

The provision of the taxi rank will also ensure that passengers have a choice of taxi (black cab) or private hire/minicab services.