

Meeting: Southport Area Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 September 2010

Title of Report: Objections to Proposed Hackney Carriage Stands – Coronation Walk and Lord Street, Southport

Report of:
Andy Wallis
Director of Planning & Economic
Development

Contact Officer:

Dave Marrin 0151 934 4295
Steve Johnston 0151 934 4258

This report contains	Yes	No
CONFIDENTIAL Information/		√
EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report DELEGATED?		

Purpose of Report

To report the receipt of a number of objections to the proposed Hackney Carriage Stands in Coronation Walk and Lord Street, Southport.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that :

- (i) the Traffic Regulation Orders, as discussed in paragraphs 3.2 & 3.3, and as set out on the plan in Annex F, be implemented as soon as possible;
- (ii) the objectors be advised accordingly.

Corporate Objective Monitoring

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2.	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3.	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5.	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		√	
8.	Children and Young People		√	

Financial Implications

	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	Nil			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	2000			
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N		When?		
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

Environmental Protection – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Section

List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

Nil

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 26 May 2010, Southport Area Committee received a report detailing a request from the North Sefton Hackney Carriage Association (NSHCA) for additional Hackney Stands in Coronation Walk and Lord Street.
- 1.2 As part of the agreed policy for the establishment of new Hackney and Private Hire facilities, prior to the meeting on 26 May 2010, these proposals were circulated to Sefton's list of consultees, which included:-
- i) All Hackney Carriage Associations;
 - ii) All Private Hire Associations
 - iii) Merseyside Police
 - iv) Merseytravel
 - v) Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Office
 - vi) All property owners/occupiers adjacent to each of the proposed locations.
- 1.3 As part of this process, the owner of the newsagents shop at 2b Coronation Walk (Sweet Sentiments Ltd) raised concerns about his staff's ability to load and unload early in the morning, due to the presence of ranking cabs, and also about unruly behaviour of taxi customers accessing the cabs.
- 1.4 As a result of these concerns, the hours of operation of the proposed ranks were changed and Members resolved that:-
- (i) subject to the hours of operation of the hackney carriage stands being amended to be operational between 22.00 to 06.00 hours, the Traffic Regulation Orders as shown on the Annexes and as detailed in the report, be approved;
 - (ii) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders; and
 - (iii) the operation of the hackney carriage stands be reviewed after one year.
- 1.5 A plan showing the proposal is attached as Annex A.
- 1.6 Following the resolution, the proposed hackney carriage stands were duly advertised in the Southport Champion, giving a closing date for objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order of 4 August 2010.

2.0 Objections

- 2.1 A total of four objections were received during the objection period. Two were from owners of businesses on Coronation Walk, and two were from residents within apartments in Coronation Buildings. Copies of the objections to the proposed hackney carriage stands are shown as Annexes B, C, D & E.
- 2.2 The main points of the four objections are summarised below:-

- 2.2.1 **Harun's Charcoal Grill.** The owner claims that customers will not be able to park outside the shop, which is open from 4p.m. to 5.30 a.m. Members will recall that at its meeting on 26 May 2010, the original operative times of the hackney carriage rank was drastically reduced to allow for early evening parking on Coronation Walk. Under the revised proposals, customers would be able to park from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. within the existing Pay & Display bays outside the shop, and then park free of charge from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. After 10 p.m. the space would be given over to the Hackney trade, but on-street parking spaces would still be available on the opposite side of Coronation Walk. Technical Services Officers would suggest that sufficient on-street parking is available within a reasonable distance of the shop.
- 2.2.2 The owner also claims that delivery drivers will not be able to park close to the shop. It should be noted that there is currently a 24 hour 2 cab hackney rank already outside his shop, which cannot be used for unloading, therefore the proposals will not make the loading situation any worse.
- 2.2.3 The owner finally claims that the rank will cause an increase in fighting outside his premises. Members are reminded that the main reason for these proposed changes to the rank is to create a 'feeder' system for the main rank on Lord Street. This will allow cabs to rank up quicker and in a safer manner, which in turn will allow customers to be picked up quicker, thus reducing the situation were drunken customers are hanging around waiting for the next cab to arrive, and then arguing over whose cab it is.
- 2.2.4 **Sweet Sentiments Ltd.** The owner feels that reducing the existing loading bay by 50% will cause his delivery drivers problems. Discussions with Parking Services Officers have revealed that the current loading bay, which is 25m long, is generally underused, although it is accepted that if the reduced loading bay was in use by Parking Services vehicles, then this would cause difficulties for the shop's delivery drivers. At the present time, there are currently 32 Pay & Display spaces on Coronation Walk, with the original proposal increasing this to 41 spaces. If the loading bay was to remain unaltered, this would reduce to 38 spaces, which is still an increase of 9 Pay & Display spaces. Given the potential delivery problems, which may arise, it is recommended that the loading bay remains at 25m long.
- 2.2.5 The owner also states that his staff will have difficulties parking their private vehicles whilst on shift. As stated above, even with the retention of the loading bay, the proposals will increase available on-street parking from 32 Pay & Display spaces to 38 spaces. Whilst it is accepted that his staff may have to park further down Coronation Walk, it is considered that this is no more onerous than for any of the other shop employees within the town centre.
- 2.2.6 The owner finally objects on the grounds of anti-social behaviour, suggesting that Members visit Coronation Walk during the early hours at the weekend. Certain Members of the Licensing Committee have already done this in the past, and have confirmed their support for adequate Taxi facilities (Hackney and Private Hire) in order to remove the trouble-makers as quickly as

possible, rather than have them loitering around trying to find transport home. This view is also held by Merseyside Police, and has resulted in Taxi Marshalls being employed at the main rank on Lord Street. These proposals for the two feeder ranks on Coronation Walk and Lord Street will allow a much quicker and safer provision of hackney cabs during the early hours. It will also reduce congestion on Lord Street and Coronation walk, and allow Private Hire Vehicles to access their pre-booked fares at the various pubs, clubs and restaurants in the area.

- 2.2.7 **Resident (Annex D).** The resident of Coronation Buildings included 9 further signatures with his letter, from neighbours of adjoining flats. The resident objects to the proposed hackney carriage rank on the basis that it would create excessive noise by drunken revellers and extra traffic.
- 2.2.8 As stated in paragraph 2.2.6 the proposal is designed to reduce waiting time for passengers and remove the conflict of cabs and Private Hire Vehicles trying to access the area. Having a better organised system for queuing cabs cannot make the existing problem of noise at night any worse, and by getting drunken revellers removed from the area as quickly as possible, should actually reduce noise. By giving hackney cabs a specific area to rank, circulating cabs trying to get on the main rank should be greatly reduced.
- 2.2.9 The resident also mentions that he was disappointed about the way the legal process of introducing the rank has been carried out. Members should be aware that all occupiers of the adjoining properties in Coronation Walk and Lord Street were hand delivered consultation documents as part of the process described in paragraph 1.2
- 2.2.10 **Resident (Annex E)** The resident also objects on the grounds of noise, and was one of the 9 residents who signed the letter in Annex D. This has been discussed in paragraph 2.2.9

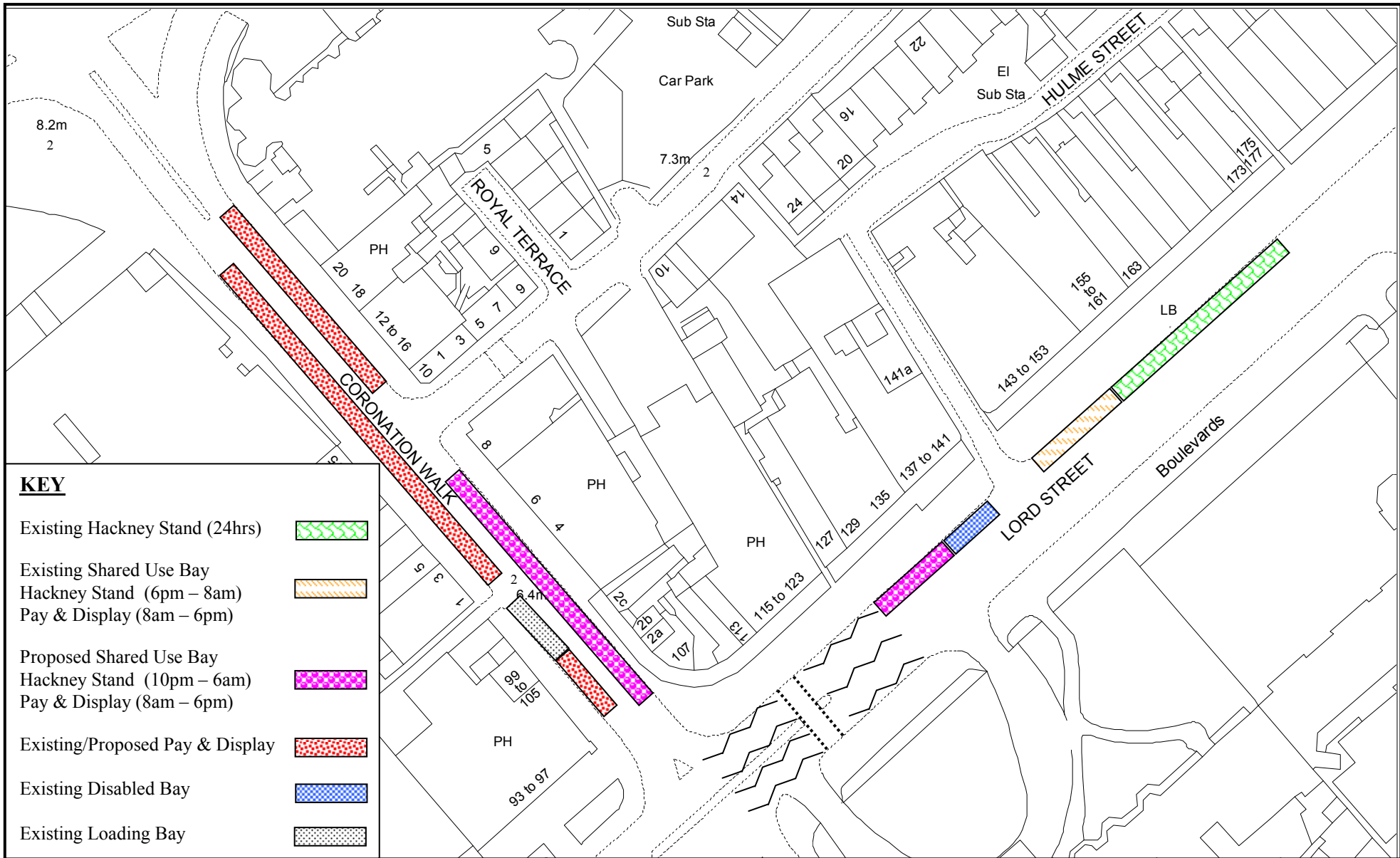
3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Whilst the problems of noise and anti-social behaviour in the early hours of the morning are recognised, it is considered that the provision of the feeder hackney ranks will allow these issues to be more easily addressed. Disruptive revellers will be able to be transported home more easily, and traffic congestion caused by large numbers of cabs trying to access their fares will be reduced.
- 3.2 The problems highlighted by the owner of Sweet Sentiments Ltd, in relation to his loading requirements are accepted, and it is recommended that the proposed reduction in length of the existing loading bay on the Southwest side of Coronation Walk should not take place. This will maintain a 25m loading bay which his suppliers can utilise.
- 3.3 The issue with the staff of Sweet Sentiments Ltd not being able to park outside the premises is noted, but it is felt that, given the increase in Pay &

Display spaces on Coronation Walk, adequate parking facilities exist within an acceptable distance from the shop. It is recommended, therefore, that the proposed hackney carriage stand is provided as originally advertised.

3.4 A plan showing the revised proposals is shown as Annex F.

Andy Wallis
Director of Planning & Economic Development



KEY

Existing Hackney Stand (24hrs)	
Existing Shared Use Bay	
Hackney Stand (6pm – 8am) Pay & Display (8am – 6pm)	
Proposed Shared Use Bay	
Hackney Stand (10pm – 6am) Pay & Display (8am – 6pm)	
Existing/Proposed Pay & Display	
Existing Disabled Bay	
Existing Loading Bay	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON

Andy Wallis

Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration

Title
Coronation Walk, Southport - **Proposed** Hackney Carriage Stands.

Drawn

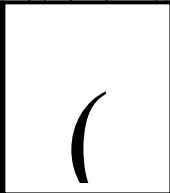
Scale

Date

SJ

NTS

Aug 2010



T94/TM/0380 Steve

12715



Harun's Charcoal Grill
2c Coronation Walk
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 1RE

Traffic Services Manager
Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 3NJ

29th July 2010

Proposed Hackney Carriage Stands – Coronation Walk

I would like to object to the proposed taxi rank on Coronation walk.

This will affect my business because my customers will not be able to park outside my shop, as my opening hours are 4pm-5.30am.

Our delivery drivers will also not be able to park and the loading bay is always full.

In the early hours of the morning fights will often take place. Most of these fights are about taxis even though the kebab shops are often blamed. Increasing the number of taxis will increase the number of fights.

I am very against this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Ranks
Already 3 on Coronation Walk
never used.

Ibrahim Cakir

Harun Kebab & Pizza
2-C Coronation Walk
Southport
PR 8 1RE
Tel:01704864884

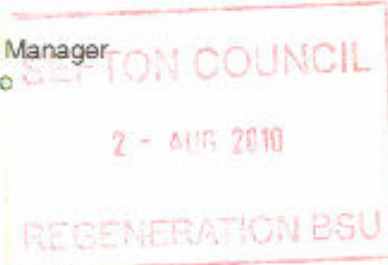
TSul/pul 0380 STEVE

12/7/10

ANNEX C

John Culshaw
Sweet Sentiments Ltd
2b Coronation Walk
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 1RE

Traffic Services Manager
Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 3NJ



30th July 2010

Proposed Hackney Carriage Stands – Coronation Walk

Dear Sirs

Further to my email dated 7th April 2010 and the Southport Area Committee meeting on 25th May 2010 in which my initial objection was detailed, I wish to reaffirm my objection to the proposed Hackney Carriage Stand on Coronation Walk.

Although the new proposal includes a change in the operation hours to 6am, many of my concerns remain un-addressed.

The proposal to reduce the loading bay in order to provide parking facilities will itself create problems. My suppliers already struggle to make deliveries due to the almost permanent occupation of the loading bay by Parking Services vehicles and removing 50% of this facility will cause major problems. It is suggested in the report that the creation of 3 parking spaces in the loading bay would resolve issues of staff parking during late opening. This would mean closing the shop to move their vehicle to an alternative space (if available) to ensure that they are legally parked.

The issue regarding the undoubted increase in anti-social behaviour in the report has been largely ignored, glossed over and responsibility passed on. There is no question the current problems we experience will increase dramatically and passing responsibility to Merseyside Police for problems that will be created by this proposal is at best irresponsible. If the anti-social behaviour created specifically by taxis is to be further questioned, I suggest that members of the Committee and Traffic Services attend Coronation Walk on Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning.

I am also extremely disappointed in the manner in which we have been notified of the new proposal. Instead of a letter, a single weather beaten piece of paper taped to a lamppost was deemed as sufficient. Not only was the notification barely legible due to the elements, it included insufficient and

TSA/TM/0380 STEVE

12717

[Redacted] Buildings
Coronation Walk
Southport
PR8 1RF

ANNEX D

Traffic Services Manager
Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 3NJ

29th July 2010

Proposed Hackney Carriage Stands – Coronation Walk

Dear Sirs

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and several of the residents who live in Coronation Buildings regarding your proposal for a Hackney Carriage Stand on Coronation Walk and Lord Street.

We, the residents, strongly object to having a Hackney rank outside our homes for a number of reasons:

- The excessive noise created by drunken revellers
- Noise generated from the extra traffic at extremely unsociable hours
- Loss of residents parking outside our place of abode
- Noise of the police vehicles attending drunken revellers that will undoubtedly increase

Coronation Buildings has old-fashioned timber windows, which do not keep out all the noise. We feel that a Hackney Carriage Stand will attract people from all over the town, which will in turn create more noise.

I would also like it noted that we are extremely disappointed in the manner that these proposals have been circulated. A simple A4 sheet of paper, open to the elements, taped to a lamppost is, in our view, a disgrace. A letter sent to each individual resident, detailing your revised plans is the least we should expect, considering the intolerable impact your proposal will have on our home lives.

Overleaf is the signature of residents who, like myself, object to the proposed Hackney Carriage Stand on Lord Street and Coronation Walk

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]



PTO.

TSU/ra/0380 Streets

12/11

SEFTON COUNCIL

29 JUL 2010

ANNEX E

REGENERATION BSU

28.7.10

Traffic Services Manager
Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle

[Redacted] Coronation Bldgs
Coronation Walk
Southport
PR3 1RF

Re: Proposed Hackney Carriage Stands – Coronation Walk and Lord Street,
Southport

I very much oppose the number of new Hackney Carriage Stands in
Coronation Walk and Lord Street, Southport.

Firstly I was surprised that we in Coronation Buildings were not notified in
writing but found out by chance from a neighbour who spotted a notice
pinned to a street lamp!. This is surely not the right procedure.

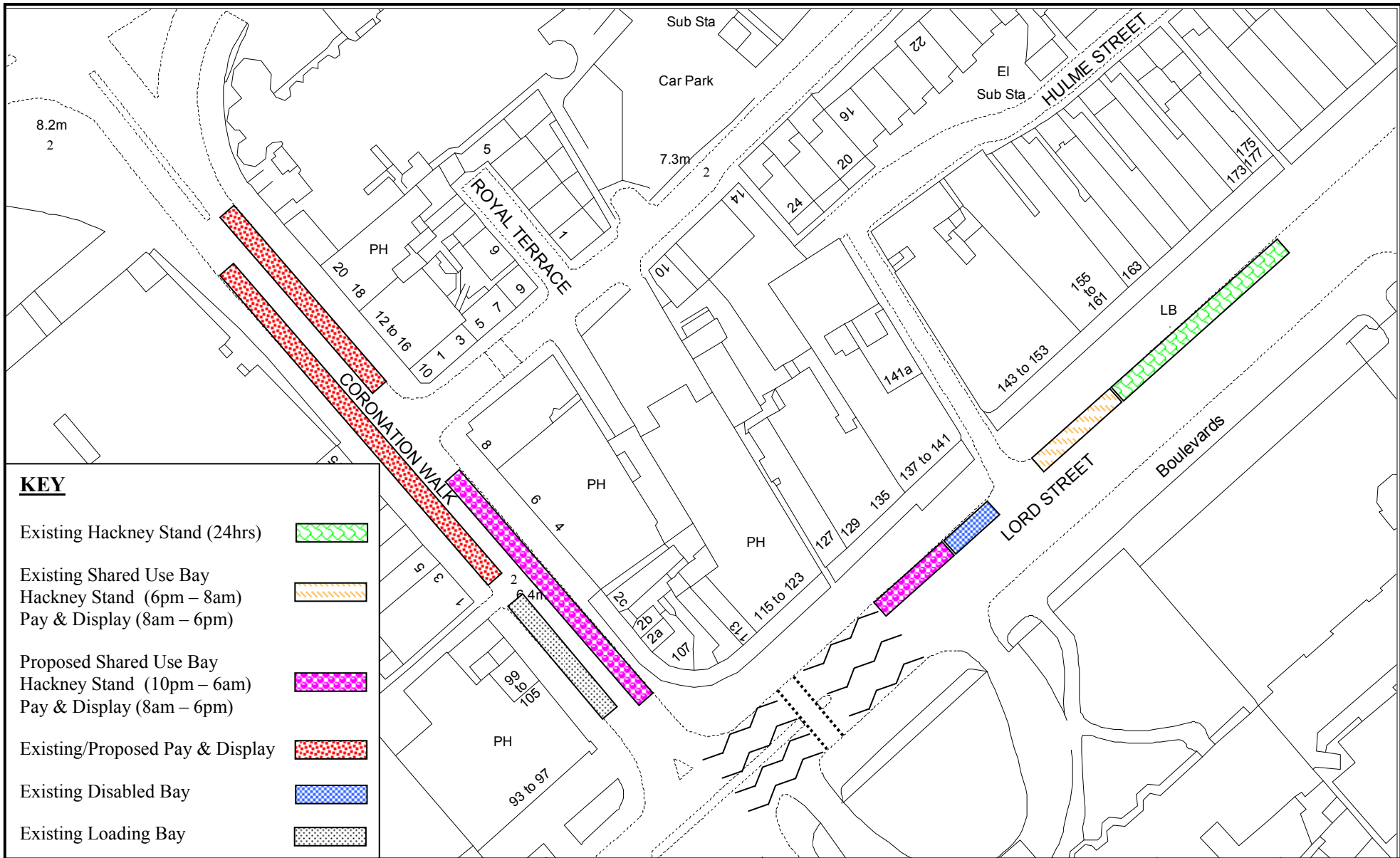
Secondly I am strongly opposed to the Hackney Carriage Stands being
outside a residential building, it will attract a lot of persons (some of whom
will be drunk) which will congregate in the doorway of our buildings, urinating,
vomiting, pressing of doorbells and most of all create noise pollution in the
early hours of the morning.

You have portrayed to me that no consideration has been given to the
residents of Coronation Walk.

Yours truly



[Redacted]



KEY

- Existing Hackney Stand (24hrs)
- Existing Shared Use Bay Hackney Stand (6pm – 8am) Pay & Display (8am – 6pm)
- Proposed Shared Use Bay Hackney Stand (10pm – 6am) Pay & Display (8am – 6pm)
- Existing/Proposed Pay & Display
- Existing Disabled Bay
- Existing Loading Bay

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON

Andy Wallis

Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration

Title
Coronation Walk, Southport - **Proposed** Hackney Carriage Stands. (Revised)

Drawn
Scale
Date

SJ
NTS
Aug 2010

