

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

TO THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE ON 27TH March 2025

Item 5 – Beaulieu Park Train Station – Taxi Rank Permit Scheme

Question from Mr V (Chelmsford Taxi Drivers Association)

Dear Councillors

The trade and our union representative, the GMB, have made their position absolutely clear regarding the proposal currently tabled by the Council. This proposal appears to be driven primarily by financial motives—a shocking approach when the focus should be on public service.

When it comes to Taxi Licensing, key principles must be upheld Availability, Reliability, and Safety consciousness. These should be the foundation of any policy decision affecting the travelling public and the licensed Taxi trade.

The opening of the new Beaulieu Station is of major significance to the City of Chelmsford and its surrounding areas. Residents and commuters have waited years for this enhancement in infrastructure, and we all share a responsibility to ensure that every link in the transport chain is robust and reliable.

We must prioritise seamless, end-to-end service—from the rail franchise and local bus services to Hackney Carriage taxis. These services must operate without undue restrictions or financial burdens that could compromise their ability to serve the public effectively.

It is deeply concerning that the Council appears to view this moment as an opportunity to generate revenue at the expense of the trade. The proposed restrictions and charges, in our opinion, are short-sighted and pose a serious risk to public service. These measures may result in rail users being left stranded, unable to travel home or to work as expected, truly a wholly unacceptable outcome.

Having carefully considered all the representations and feedback provided, I urge this committee to act in the public interest and reject the proposal in full.

Chelmsford Taxi Drivers Association

Question from Mr B

Hi there,

Hope you all fine. As we all know that new station in Chelmsford is going to open soon and licencing office have a plan to introduce a new taxi rank at the station and charge the taxi driver to use the taxi rank between £500-£1500 per year on the Council land.

I have great reservations about the Council plan to charge large sum of money to use the taxi rank which is on council land for various reason , some of these reasons are as follows:

- 1- Taxi business is in declined since Covid and uber Surge recently in Chelmsford.
- 2- Taxi drivers are already pay fee to council in shape of taxi Licence and Driver licence. Infact I renewed my both licences last month for just around £600.
- 3- Due to Cost of living crises it is not practical for me to pay another £500-£1500 to use the taxi rank. And it is the case with most of the drivers.
- 4- there will be safe guarding issues at new station if driver does not show any interest to apply for the new rank. Council will put Young and vulnerable individuals on risk if such scenario arise.
- 5- Can respectable Councillors ask the licening department that will the new rank generate the new customers or divide the same customers between two stations? And if same customers are divided into 2 stations which means not only our fare will be half but on top of , licening department is asking the £500-£1500 to use it. Does it make sense? Since new station is nearly 4-5 miles away.

I would like to ask the Respectable councillors to consider not only points above I mentioned but to bear In mind the New Hackney prices £60000, increased taxi insurance premium, and Genral cost of living crises in the country ,interest rate, or increase rental crises before voting against the motion.

Thanks and regards