

The Council House Corporation Street Derby DE1 2FS

Councillor Lucy Care
Cabinet Member for
Planning and Transportation

Your Reference

Our Reference
MRHI/RJ

Date
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Contact
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Dear Lucy

DISABLED PEOPLE'S DIVERSITY FORUM AND RICKSHAWS

I write as Chair of the Disabled People's Diversity Forum and the Council's Champion for Disabled People.

At the last meeting of the Forum the issue of rickshaw use in the City Centre was discussed. Forum members unanimously agreed to support the recommendation agreed last year by the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee, Cross Party Working Group to license rickshaws under the hackney carriage licensing conditions. One of the conditions being that the rickshaw is wheelchair accessible to comply with our statutory duty to promote disability equality.

You may be aware that the rickshaw proposed for use in Derby has been assessed against the criteria agreed by Members and it failed to meet the accessibility condition.

Forum members are aware that the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee may be asked to consider different rickshaw licensing arrangements. If committee Members were minded to agree licensing condition which permitted the operation of the current wheelchair inaccessible rickshaw Forum members are opposed to its use in pedestrianised areas.

Forum members are very supportive of our current Traffic Regulation Orders which prohibit most vehicles from our pedestrianised streets. They were therefore completely opposed to allowing rickshaws to use our pedestrianised streets for even an 18-month trial period. They commented that they didn't need a trial period to demonstrate that allowing rickshaw to use our pedestrianised streets would reduce the accessibility and safety of the streets to older and disabled people.

Should revised licensing arrangements allow rickshaw use in the city centre Forum members ask that you do not agree to their use in our pedestrianised areas.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Maggie Hird
Chair Disabled People's Diversity Forum and Disabled People's Champion.