

Planning Statement

Site: 77 Church Street Littleborough OL15 8AB

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for the Use of Private Hire Operating Centre,

The applicant is applying for a lawfulness use of a private hire operating centre. There would be no external changes to the building's elevations.

The applicant expresses that an extended period of vacancy of this building would place the building at risk of deterioration. This is a situation that the applicants want to avoid and as such seeks to ensure a sustainable future for the building.

The role of the private hire booking office is to be a base for taking telephone calls with the use of technology and with other light office duties, including photocopies and computer works. Whilst using mobile internet technology to dispatch the jobs to the drivers who would predominantly be out on the roads.

The private hire booking office would hire two or three part-time staff to rotate 8-hour shift to work at the call office. The proposal seeks to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and at no time any taxis would rank at the site, or any customers would come to the premises. The private hire booking office will be used a call centre telephone system which uses a computerized booking system utilizing a similar method to PDA (Personal Digital Assistance) mobile internet technology to dispatch jobs to the drives. These systems operate with GPRS (general packet radio service/global positioning system) and do not require the drivers to be stationary to receive commands, allowing drivers to keep on the move within the community for service and not remain on standby at specific locations.

The installation of this technology allows the efficient operation of the private hire business to reduce the overall visits to the site, consequently reducing the miles travelled and carbon emissions by dispatching the nearest driver to each new booking.

Given the limited number of staff at the booking office, it would not lead to any detrimental impacts through noise or congestion at the site. The effect on any residential amenity by reason of noise or other nuisance would be minor given its location in the town centre amongst other noise-generating uses and the make-up and character of the area which in themselves produce a level of noise.