

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Planning Housing and Health (Licensing)

Head of Service: Jeremy Mann

Lead Officer: Katy Nicholls

Date of Assessment: 07/04/2022

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Katy Nicholls

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Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed: Review of the Council's Taxi Tariff

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: An amendment of the maximum fares charged by licensed taxi drivers is proposed in line with CPI increases, plus addition of an additional fuel surcharge, and increased valet fee.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: 14 days after close of statutory consultation period, provided no representations received.

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Increased level of fares	Council's Taxi Tariff approved April 2016	An increase across the table based upon a recommendation of Licensing and Community Safety Committee in line with data from ONS pertaining to rate of CPI increase	In line with CPI from date of last tariff review

Impact:

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion.

Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Reviewing the tariff and making an increase of fares will have a general impact on the cost of taxi journeys across the district. Taxi fares have a direct impact on the taxi drivers, operators and proprietors of licensed vehicles by way of the remuneration provided through the journeys taken by the public and there is a similar impact on individuals and businesses using taxis for these journeys which may be pleasure or business related. The impact of the proposals will depend on any increase approved. Should the Council set the fare too low this may adversely affect the supply of taxis in the area. Whilst setting the fare too high may have a negative impact on the vulnerable users of this essential service, for example protected groups including the disabled who rely on taxis as a principle form of transport. Basing any increase in an educated and methodical manner and upon CPI data from the Office of National Statistics will enable a proportionate response to the above issues.

Consideration of Alternatives:

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):

Alternative options provided for in the report to Licensing and CS Committee, all in line with CPI data and also based upon trade proposals.

Consultation:

Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

Consultation by way of taxi newsletter issued to taxi and private hire trade, and consultation prescribed under the relevant legislation for a minimum of 14 days, after the decision has been taken on a proposal by Strategy and Resources Committee.

Funding Considerations:

Costs of advertisement met by way of existing budget

Date approved by Head of Service: 07/04/2022

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

No further consideration deemed necessary, albeit that this will be undertaken when any further report comes back to committee after any subsequent representation from the taxi trade for an increase.

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

Fuel price monitoring and CPI monitoring

Date approved by Head of Service: 07/04/2022

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC

Website: 22/06/2022

(received by Corporate and community services 20/6/22)