

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Licensing

Head of Service: Jeremy Mann

Lead Officer: Katy Nicholls

Date of Assessment: 12/10/2022

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Katy Nicholls

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Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed: Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: Proposed amendments to the policy, largely to amend any areas now out-dated; to enhance public safety and benefit the environment

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: Approval recommended by Strategy and Resources Committee for new revised policy for which there are a selection of relevant dates encompassed within the documentation, for example the 1 January 2023 is the date proposed for mandating safeguarding training/bookings for existing licensed drivers.

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Age of vehicles licensed by the Council/environmental impact of vehicles licensed by the Council.	No maximum age for a vehicle after first licence granted, albeit increased frequency of testing in relation to age specified.	Update to the licenced vehicle age criteria (vehicle standards), to better align the Taxi Policy with the Council's corporate priority around protecting the environment by way of Euro rating for emissions alongside proposal to incentivise drivers gaining a wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) in the recognition that this cannot be undertaken by way of reduction in fees for this vehicle type.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Introduction of technical specifications and system requirements for any new CCTV systems fitted within licenced vehicles;	No specification.	Full proposed specification covering position and nature of set up and operating requirements.	Click or tap here to enter text.
The introduction of record keeping requirements for vehicle proprietors (daily vehicle check records, maintenance records, and a log of who drives the vehicle);	No records required to be kept.	Records for maintenance and driver log recommended.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Identification of private hire vehicles.	Sun-visor provision.	Proposed amendment to require 'advanced booking only door sticker' and to remove sun-visor requirement.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Dealing with complaints made in respect of licensed drivers.	No requirement.	The proposed introduction of a requirement for Licence holders to attend an interview with the Licensing Authority where requested in writing in relation to a complaint (interviews to be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code B);	

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:

Neutral impact largely perceived due to the nature of the above amendments, albeit positive impact in terms of disability if the Council is able to increase the numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles that are licensed via incentives.

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):

Licensing and Community Safety Committee considered two alternatives in a full report taken to its February meeting. This was pertaining to the environmental considerations in respect of vehicle licensing and WAV numbers.

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 with trade and public was undertaken after March meeting of Licensing and Community Safety Committee.

Funding Considerations:

No funding considerations relevant in terms of the proposals.

Date approved by Head of Service: 12/10/2022

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.

12 months after initiation of this tranche of policy changes, on date to be confirmed. We are at an early stage in this project.

Monitoring Arrangements:

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

Monitoring of WAV take up and reporting to LCSC.

Date approved by Head of Service: 12/10/2022

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC Website: 14/10/2022