

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Licensing

Head of Service: Jeremy Mann

Lead Officer: Katy Nicholls

Date of Assessment: 18/09/2023

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Katy Nicholls

Email address: kate.nicholls@northdevon.gov.uk

Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Amendments

- **Brief description of proposal to be assessed:** The report is intended to approve a number of amendments to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy following their recommendation by Licensing and Community Safety Committee.
- Wheelchair accessible vehicle approval- vehicle conversion certification requirements;
- Executive Hire Exemptions- Exemption conditions;
- Vehicle Inspection form- additional information added to inspection form;
- Update to Appendix J (Offences – Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers), to reflect new offences;
- Removal of the requirement for licenced vehicles to carry a fire extinguisher;
- Additional medical requirement information;
- Reverting to the use of sun strips on private hire vehicles (rather than impose a requirement for door signs);

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: Approval sought by Strategy and Resources Committee.

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Wheelchair accessible vehicle approval	The current policy does not include any reference to the certification requirements where vehicles have been converted to become wheelchair accessible	Additional policy Appendices detailing these requirements.	Officers are pleased to see an increase in interest in plating WAVs and feel this additional information will provide greater clarity to prospective proprietors. Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Possible positive benefit to wheelchair users
Executive Hire Exemptions	Appendix R of the Policy sets out the Executive Hire Exemption Policy.	Additional conditions for vehicles granted exemption notices	Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Neutral impact expected across all protected characteristic groups.
Vehicle Inspection form	Link to form in policy	Additional information provided for examining engineer.	Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Neutral impact expected across all protected characteristic groups.
Removal of fire extinguisher requirement	Requirement under current policy for all licenced vehicles	Removal of condition (stance supported by Fire Service)	Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Neutral impact expected across all protected characteristic groups.

Additional medical requirement information	All Licenced drivers are required to pass the DVLA Group 2 medical	No change from DVLA Group 2, rather policy intends to give greater clarity on these requirements	Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Neutral impact expected across all protected characteristic groups.
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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 policy proposals.

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):

Strategy and Resources Committee have the option to reject the proposed options for amendment and instead retain the current Policy. No negative effects identified requiring mitigation.

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:

Benchmarking has been undertaken against other neighbouring Authorities policy requirements. The Licensing Team has also been contacted directly by a local Private Hire proprietors/ Operators.

Funding Considerations:

No funding considerations relevant in terms of the proposals.

Date approved by Head of Service: 18/09/2023

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.

Monitoring Arrangements:

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

Monitoring of application process by Licensing Case Officer staff routinely as part of day to day business.

Date approved by Head of Service: 18/09/2023

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