

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Margaret O'Donnell – Licensing Manager

Email address: margaretodonnell@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Vicky Shaw – Head of Legal Services

Chief Officer: - Jill Travers – Director of Law & Governance

Directorate: Law & Governance

Date: 20th Oct 2023

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES

Since 2012 there has been a limit of 289 on the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences that could be issued by the Council. This decision was reviewed by this Committee on 1 February 2018 when it was resolved that the limit should be maintained. Since that date there has been a significant reduction in the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles that are licensed in Wirral from 285 vehicles to the current number which is 160. It is therefore considered no longer necessary to limit the number of vehicles that may be licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles by the Council.

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

Yes / No **If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date**

**REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 23rd
November 2023**

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals. We encourage services to consider the impact on those who serve and who have served in the armed forces and their families, in accordance with the Armed Forces Covenant

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Disability/Age/Pregnancy & Maternity	<p>Neutral impact – The removal of the limit on Hackney carriage licences will not have an impact at this time. The Council are not in a position where an application for a licence may be refused due to an imposed limit.</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 places the following duties on the drivers of wheelchair accessible private hire and hackney carriage vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry a passenger while in a wheelchair • Not make any additional charge for doing so • If the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair separately • To take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort; and 	<p>N/A - The number of current licences can have an impact on the ability of those who may need an accessible hire vehicle to find one. The number of licences granted can be fluid over time, therefore this assessment may be reviewed as necessary to ensure that The Council meets its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. Any possible impact will be monitored by the Licensing Manager</p>	Licensing Manager	Ongoing	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required.				
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Any changes to licensing limits will be monitored by the Licensing Manager

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The Council are not in a position where an application for a licence may be refused due to an imposed limit.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Data on number of current Hackney licences in operation

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

~~Yes / No~~ – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

Whilst there is such a significant gap between the limit that has been set and the number of vehicles licensed the removal of the limit will have no impact on either the Hackney Carriage Trade or the public. It is therefore not considered necessary to undertake formal consultation in respect of removing the limit of vehicles that can be licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

N/A

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**