

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Andrew Bushell – Licensing Operations Manager

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Head of Section: Vicki Shaw – Head of Legal Services

Chief Officer: Jill Travers – Director of Law and Governance

Directorate: Law and Governance

Date: 27 October 2023

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Hackney Carriage Fares

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is recommended to consider the proposals set out in this report to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares and determine whether it is appropriate to approve the proposals subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

A proposal to amend the current Hackney Carriage Fares has been received from Unite the Union on behalf of their members who are Hackney Carriage Drivers licensed by Wirral Council

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

Yes /No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

...The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee
23 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.

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	All Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed by Wirral must be wheelchair accessible, they are therefore the most accessible vehicle to be hired by individuals with a disability. The report establishes a maximum fare level and ensures no additional charges for the carriage of wheelchairs, aids or assistance dogs An increase in the cost of using these vehicles could limit the mobility of individuals.	An increase in the fares may encourage more drivers to work and therefore increase the availability of Hackney Carriages. This could be kept under review. If an increase is not undertaken then the cost of living for hackney carriage drivers may become unaffordable, forcing them to leave the trade and resulting in a decrease in availability of taxis for the public.	Andrew Bushell	12 Months	Officer time to undertake the review

		If a fare increase is undertaken it will ensure that fares remain in line with the cost of living, and help prevent the loss of drivers on this basis.			
Pregnancy and Maternity	The accessibility of Hackney Carriages makes them more attractive to parents with young babies and children as push chairs can be more easily transported. An increase in the cost of using these vehicles could limit the mobility of these individuals.	<p>An increase in the fares may encourage more drivers to work and therefore increase the availability of Hackney Carriages. This could be kept under review.</p> <p>If an increase is not undertaken then the cost of living for hackney carriage drivers may become unaffordable, forcing them to leave the trade and resulting in a decrease in availability of taxis for the public</p> <p>If a fare increase is undertaken it will ensure that fares remain in line with the cost of living, and help prevent the loss of drivers on this basis.</p>	Andrew Bushell	12 Months	Officer time to undertake the review
Socio-economic status	An increase in the cost of Hackney Carriage fares could limit the mobility of low income individuals and families.	An increase in the fares may encourage more drivers to work and therefore increase the availability of Hackney Carriages. This could be kept under review.	Andrew Bushell	12 Months	Officer time to undertake the review

		<p>If an increase is not undertaken then the cost of living for hackney carriage drivers may become unaffordable, forcing them to leave the trade and resulting in a decrease in availability of taxis for the public</p> <p>If a fare increase is undertaken it will ensure that fares remain in line with the cost of living, and help prevent the loss of drivers on this basis.</p>			
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

A review of the impact of any fare increase will be ongoing through feedback from the public.

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

N/A

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

The Council has taken representation from taxi driver organisations. We have proposed fares in line with other local authorities and kept any increases to a minimum especially for shorter journeys.

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

Yes – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

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

(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?

An advert will be published in the local newspaper advising of any proposed change to the Hackney Carriage fares providing a minimum of 14days for consultation.

The Committee could determine that there should be no change to the Hackney Carriage Fares or that an alternative proposal should be the subject of consultation.

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?**