



Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Margaret O'Donnell – Licensing Manager

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Head of Section: Margaret O'Donnell – Licensing Manager

Chief Officer: Jill Travers – Director of Law & Corporate Services

Directorate: Law & Corporate Services

Date: 30th May 2024

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CRITERIA

The criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Private Hire Vehicles has not been reviewed since September 2017. Following the publication of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards in July 2020 and recommendations contained within the Standards, the Council adopted a single cohesive policy document for the licensing of drivers, vehicles and operators in respect of both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire licensing functions. The effect of adopting one cohesive policy document was to consolidate existing policy, criteria and conditions. It did not introduce any new requirements or amend the criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles. Since that time, on 17 November 2023, the Department for Transport (DfT) published a revised Best Practice Guidance for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing in England (DfT Best Practice Guidance). In light of the DfT Best Practice Guidance and the increasing number of vehicles operating in Wirral that have been licensed in other local authorities with different criteria, it is considered appropriate to review the criteria at this time.

This Equality Impact Assessment reflects the current vehicle criteria and may be reviewed and amended during the life of the policy to ensure continued compliance with The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Sect 149)

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
13th June 2024

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
All	<p>Positive - Wirral Council has reviewed the criteria taking into account that they must be satisfied that vehicles licensed as private hire vehicles are suitable in type, size and design for use as private hire vehicles, that it is in a suitable mechanical condition and is safe and comfortable. In respect of hackney carriage vehicles the Council has had regard to the fact that a district council may attach to the grant of a licence of a hackney carriage under the Town Police Clauses Act of 1847 such conditions as the district council may consider reasonably necessary.</p> <p>The criteria have been reviewed also having regard to the Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance and having regard to the criteria for licensing vehicles in neighbouring authorities across the Liverpool City Region seeking to achieve greater consistency which</p>	<p>In the event that there are any negative impacts, proactive compliance checks will be carried out on licensed vehicles to mitigate any negative impact from the changes in criteria.</p>	Licensing Manager	Ongoing	N/A

	should lead to improved control of licensed vehicles operating in Wirral.				
All	Positive – The proposed changes to the criteria include reference to Euro emission standards	None – Vehicle criteria used to issue licences for both private hire (PHV) and hackney carriage vehicles (HCV)	Licensing Manager	Ongoing	N/A
All	Negative – Wirral Council recognise that sections of the community may require that policies, criteria and procedures be made available in different languages or formats	We will ensure that materials are made available in different languages and formats upon request and within a reasonable timeframe	Licensing Manager	Ongoing	Call off contract through Procurement
Disability	<p>Positive – All criteria regarding wheelchair access, flooring, signage and lighting have been retained within the HCV criteria.</p> <p>It is proposed that the criteria around access and egress be strengthened as follows:</p> <p>A vehicle with a top tread for the entrance which exceeds 38cms from the ground must be fitted with a step to allow easy access into and egress from the vehicle. Any vehicle that does not have a step fitted must carry a portable step to be available for passengers. Both a fitted and portable step must be robust to carry the weight of a passenger and covered with a non-slip surface. The step height must be no more than 38cms from the ground. The driver of the vehicle must risk assess the use of a portable step on each occasion it is requested by a passenger.</p>	None – Vehicle criteria used to issue HCV licences	Licensing Manager	Ongoing	N/A

	The removal of the age restrictions in respect of Hackney Carriage Vehicles should increase the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles for hire in Wirral.				
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Criteria is regularly reviewed to reflect current legislation and guidance

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?

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards
Department for Transport (DfT)
Best Practice Guidance for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing in England
Consultation from Nov 23- Feb 24

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:

(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?

Consultation took place through "Have Your Say" consultation portal from Nov 23 – Feb 24.

License holders were emailed and invited to take part in the consultation. Officers engaged through License Premises Network.

Wirral Participation and Engagement events were held with organisations to encourage participation from people who have/share protected characteristics in order to ensure that they were able to fully express their views

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?**