

Appendix B

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool email Kate Yerbury, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk or phone 01223 457046.

Once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking. For advice on consulting on equality impacts, please contact Graham Saint, Strategy Officer, (graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk or 01223 457044).

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Limiting the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV)
2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
Click here to enter text.
3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?
Cambridge City Council Licenses both Hackney Carriages (HCV) and private hire vehicles (PHV) to operate in the City. HCVs operate from ranks and can be hailed in the street and they can also accept pre-booked fares, either direct or from a licensed operator. PHVs may only accept pre-booked fares from an operator. However, there

is no power for the Council to limit their numbers, nor to regulate those licensed by other Councils and operating in the city. The Transport Act 1985 allows the Council to limit the number of HCVs it licenses, but only if it is satisfied that there is no significant demand for HCVs which is unmet.

In 1997 Members asked for a report to remove the limitation on the number of licences issued. At full Council on 20th July 2000 the decision was made to de-limit the number of HCV licences issued with effect from 1st July 2001, with the continued condition that any new HCV licences issued had to be for wheel chair accessible vehicles, but not necessarily a purpose-built HCV.

In 2011 the taxi trade requested that a further survey should be carried out, and a demand survey was carried out in 2012 to determine if there were enough HCV, the survey also covered disabled accessibility issues. Stake holders included police County Council other departments at the City Council, businesses, taxi trade, taxi users, public and disability groups. During the 2012 survey there was lack of engagement by the trade so further research was conducted in 2014.

At Licensing Committee on 26th January 2015 Members agreed that a limit should be set at 321 and this policy should be reviewed after 3 years.

On the 20th March 2017 a report was brought to Licensing Committee recommending that Officers procure a company to carry out a further demand survey to establish if there is significant demand for the services of HCVs which is unmet.

Following the tendering process, LSVA was appointed to undertake the survey, and review accessibility and air quality. The survey results and committee report were brought in front of members in January 2018, who unanimously resolved they were satisfied that there was no significant demand for hackney carriages in Cambridge which was unmet and refused to remove the existing limit of 321.

Following the 2017 survey, the next survey was due to be completed in 2020. This did not take place, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the various lockdowns put in place by the UK Government. It was concluded that a demand survey at that time would not be a true representation of the demand.

On the 31st January 2022, report was presented to Licensing committee recommending officers procure a company to carry out a demand survey to establish if there is significant demand for the services of HCVs which is unmet. Members unanimously resolved to instruct officers to procure and implement a new Hackney Carriage Demand Survey to determine whether there is a significant unmet demand in the City, and to bring the results and recommendations to Licensing Committee in January 2023.

Specification was developed by officers and tender published. The tender selected LSVA, who had previously completed the demand survey within Cambridge.

Survey took place in June and November 2022

Survey concluded there was no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriages, however more research needs to be completed in reference to Wheelchair accessible vehicle accessibility. Licensing Committee members will be required to decide if they are satisfied that there was no significant demand for hackney carriages in Cambridge which was unmet.

From the initial assessment of this EQiA further evidence is required around ethnicity, age, gender and transgender. Historically this data has not been collected , and we will be working to collect the evidence to develop this EQiA with the various equality groups.

4. Responsible service

Environmental Services

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Residents
- Visitors
- Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

Disabled groups

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?

- New
- Major change
- Minor change

7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)

- Yes
- No

If 'Yes' please provide details below:

Legal
Corporate Strategy

Disability Groups
Taxi trade representatives

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?

Licensing Committee 30 January 2023

9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

As part of the Demand survey, disability

10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

Click here to enter text.

(b) Disability

Currently half (50%) of the vehicles within the Hackney Carriage Vehicle fleet are Wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Within the 2022 survey, the disability groups were consulted, one response was received and referenced concern over vehicle types, however did not give detail.

Public survey also highlighted that the need for adapted vehicles appears to have grown since the last survey, with a focus on WAV style vehicles.

Survey also highlights more in depth research, listening to those with issues, and possibly training for drivers that ensures they keep knowledge of how to help people with disabilities at the forefront of their minds.

Currently the council is looking into this.

(c) Gender reassignment

Not applicable

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

Not applicable

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

Not applicable

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic ‘race’ refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Not applicable

(g) Religion or belief

Not applicable

(h) Sex

Not applicable

(i) Sexual orientation

Not applicable

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on:

- **Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty**
- **Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_159kt25q).**

None identified

11. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqlA accordingly.)

Continued stakeholder engagement, to identify any equality impacts that may arise. EqlA will be reviewed every six months.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

Click here to enter text.

13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Yvonne O'Donnell
Environmental Health Manager

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: WAnari
Njiiri EH and Licensing Team Manager Kate Yerbury Equality and Anti Poverty Officer

Date of EqlA sign off: 17/01/2023

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: 2026

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: 30/01/2023

All EqlAs need to be sent to the Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk