

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
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Age Policy

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
Consultation information can be found on : Project • Taxi vehicle age requirements (citizenlab.co) Licensing report can be found at Licensing Committee report

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the maximum age limit for vehicles to be licensed from less than nine years old to less than 11.• Remove the requirement that any new vehicle licence will not be granted in respect of a vehicle unless it is less than four years old. <p>The above requests will only affect currently licensed and newly licenced diesel and petrol vehicles (most of which are wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV)) and standard hybrid vehicles.</p> <p>We do not see these proposals as having a significant negative impact on our Air Quality Action Plan.</p>

Furthermore, changes will offer owners a greater choice of vehicles they can licence and may also improve the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) within the fleet due to increase choice.

4. Responsible service

Environmental Health , Environmental and Public Health, Communities

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):

Hackney Carriage vehicles (HCV) and Private hire vehicle (PHV) licence proprietors

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:

N/A

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

This Policy decision is going to Licensing committee on Monday 11th September 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?

E-mails from members of the trade advising difficulties purchasing vehicles due to the increasing cost of new WAVs.

Officer observation, which shows that the numbers of vacant HCV plates available to be licenced with vehicles is increasing. This has led to a reduction in the total number of licensed WAVs.

Review of responses to consultation on taxi vehicle age requirements (although this did not show any consistent trends in relation to the equality impacts of the proposed policy changes).

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

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(b) Disability

In the last year we have received e-mails from members of the trade, advising they are seeing an increase in the price of WAV. This in addition to the increased cost of living has led to many expressing they are unable to purchase and licence new vehicles, once their current licence expires.

Furthermore, officers have seen an increase in the number of vacant Hackney Carriage Vehicle plates. The council through a Demand Survey which looks at any unmet demand, is able to limit the number of HCV they licence within the city. Currently Cambridge City Council has a limit of 321 HCV plates. Currently there are 16 Vacant plates, this means the number of WAV currently licenced has lowered, despite there being available plates available to be licenced. This means there a fewer WAV on the roads supporting disabled people that require larger vehicles.

The policy change being proposed will have a positive impact on disabled people. It will offer proprietors more choice to licence new WAV i.e. instead of only being able to purchase a vehicle that is less than 4 years old, they can look to purchase a vehicle that is less than 11 years old (vehicles will only be licenced if they are less than 11 years old). The cost of older vehicles is lower making it less prohibitive to purchase vehicles that can be licenced as WAV. Furthermore, currently licenced WAV will have an additional couple of years to their licence if proposal implemented to increase the maximum age limit for vehicles to be licensed from less than nine years old to less than 11.

(c) Gender reassignment

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(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.

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(g) Religion or belief

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(h) Sex

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(i) Sexual orientation

No impacts have been identified specific to this equality group

(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).**

Vehicle proprietors of Standard Hybrid vehicles, petrol and diesel vehicles (predominately WAV) who may be struggling with poverty will have more choice in licensing new vehicles, which will enable them to work and gain income, and will also mean that they can keep their vehicle licenced for additional time. For those currently licenced, an additional 2 years will enable them to save additional monies to purchase new vehicle.

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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.)

If the proposed policy is agreed, this EqlA will be reviewed in 12 months. The EqlA will consider if changes have impacted other groups and if there has been an increase in the number of licensed HCV.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

N/A

13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Wangari Njiiri, Environmental Health and Licensing Support Team Leader

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer and David Kidston, Strategy and Partnerships Manager

Date of EqlA sign off: 30 August 2023

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: 30 August 2024

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website:

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