

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 Helen Crowther 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.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that in respect of the charges for Hackney Carriages, the Council “may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle...by means of a table”.

The policy is to agree to continue to complete an automatic fare review in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for main tariffs, subsequent distance and waiting time, and review this process and extra charges every 3 years, at the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee, following consultation.

The table of fares is the cost of passengers taking a Hackney Carriage vehicles within the Coty, it is the fare that will be displayed on the meter in the vehicle

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4. Responsible Team and Group

Commercial and Licensing Team, 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):

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

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?

Is going to Licensing Committee on 20th January 2025

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?

A public consultation took place from 4th November 2024 to 1st December 2024 on the Cambridge City Council website. 44 people responded to the consultation.

The impact the table of fares have is in relation to people on low income who may need to use a taxi to travel.

The following evidence has been used to demonstrate that disabled people are likely to be on a lower income who may need to use a taxi to travel around, including shopping, hospital appointments

[Disability Price Tag 2024 | Disability charity Scope UK](#)

The research in the next link demonstrates that with the cost of living poverty has increased, with children having consistently had the highest poverty rates whilst pensioners along with working age adults without children have the lowest .

Groups of people who face particularly high level of poverty are the following :

Larger families

Many minority ethnic groups

Disabled people

Informal carers

Families not in work

People living in rented accommodation

Families claiming income-related benefits

[UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

[Single parents facts and figures | Gingerbread](#)

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

Children and large families are likely to be negatively impacted by the table of fares due to cost of living and high levels of poverty .

However, there would be no impact on school age children who require a taxi to get to school as this is paid by the County Council

(b) Disability

In 2021/22 31% of disabled people were in poverty. Higher poverty rates for disabled people are partly due to additional costs associated with disability and ill health and partly due to the barriers to work they face.

Disabled people are more likely to need to use taxis to get around and therefore are negatively affected by the rise in fares for taxis.

Mitigation for this is the Council taxicard scheme which issue taxi vouchers for £160 per year to spend on taxi journeys if you are disabled and on benefits. Dial a ride is supported by Cambridge City Council , which is a non profit organisation which provides local transport services via a Membership Scheme that are safe affordable, and accessible to community groups and to individuals who have difficulty in accessing public transport

(c) Gender reassignment

We do not believe that the assessment will have an impact on this target group. The assessment has been open to a public consultation and no responses have been received in regards to the assessment impacting on gender.

The Licensing Authority will have regard to equality and will expect an applicant to meet their statutory obligations in this area and not unlawfully discriminate or refuse service on grounds of gender.

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

We do not believe that the assessment will impact negatively on this target group. The assessment has been open to a public consultation and no responses have been received in regards to the assessment impacting on marriage or civil partnership.

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

We do not believe that the assessment will impact negatively on this target group. The assessment has been open to a public consultation and no responses have been received in regards to the assessment impacting on pregnancy or maternity.

(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.

Around half of people in Pakistani (51%) and Bangladeshi households (53%) and around 4 in 10 people in households headed by someone from an Asian background other than Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Chinese (39%) or households from Black African backgrounds (42%) were in poverty between 2019/20 and 2021/22. These households also have higher rates of child poverty, very deep poverty and persistent poverty.

This policy could have a negative impact on this group if they needed to use a taxi

(g) Religion or belief

We do not believe that the policy will impact negatively on this target group. The policy has been open to a public consultation and no responses have been received in regards to the policy impacting on religion.

(h) Sex

We do not believe that the assessment will impact negatively on this target group. The assessment has been open to a public consultation and no responses have been received in regards to the assessment impacting on gender.

(i) Sexual orientation

We do not believe that the assessment will impact negatively on this target group. The assessment has been open to a public consultation and no responses have been received in regards to the assessment impacting on sexual orientation.

(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.**
- **People of any age with care experience – this refers to individuals who spent part of their childhood in the care system due to situations beyond their control, primarily arising from abuse and neglect within their families. The term “Care experience” is a description of a definition in law, it includes anyone that had the state as its corporate parent by virtue of a care order in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and amendments.**
- **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>).

- Informal carers – 28% of people with caring responsibilities were in poverty in 2021/22. Informal carers face a financial penalty, because of their limited ability to work, with unpaid social-care givers experiencing an average pay penalty of nearly £5,000 a year.

There will be a positive impact on taxi drivers as this will increase their income .

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.)

This methodology will be kept under review and will remain in existence for a period of up to 3 years. It will be subject to review and further consultation before January 2028 or as required by changes with other policies.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

None

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: Helen Crowther Equalities and anti-poverty Officer

Date of EqlA sign off: 27th December 2024

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: January 2028

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: January 2025

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