

## **Community Impact Assessment**

It is intended that you complete this form if you have identified a high negative impact to our communities and employees.

Sections 1 & 2 should be completed early in policy development and before any consultation/engagement activity takes place

Sections 3 & 4 should be completed before policy approval.

**You will find the information from this assessment useful for the Equality Implications section of any report you are completing.**

### **Section 1 – Overview**

1. What is the title of the policy?

Telford & Wrekin Council Licensing Policy – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire.

2. What are the objectives of the policy? For example, what are we aiming to achieve? Please provide a brief description

The primary legislation relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing is contained in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Local Authorities are responsible for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators in their area under the provisions of these pieces of legislation.

The aim of this policy is to provide guidance for prospective applicants, existing licence holders, and Members of the Council's Licensing Committee when making a determination on an application. It is to ensure the safety and welfare of the population who live and work in Telford & Wrekin, while recognising the importance of the businesses to the local economy

This policy should be read in conjunction with Telford & Wrekin Council's conditions of licence for hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and operators.

3. This policy affects

- Customers/service-users
- Licence holders

4. What period does the policy cover?

This policy will come into effect following a twelve week consultation period not to commence before December 2011. Once implemented this policy will be subject to continuous evaluation and may be reviewed at anytime. At the time of the review all interested parties, partners and stakeholders will again be consulted.

5. Your contact details:

Name of person completing impact assessment and their post	Suzanne Fisher Public Protection Team Leader
Telephone	01952 383261
Date	

## Section 2 – Impact Assessment

### a) Community Impact

1. Will the policy contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?
  - Yes (go to Q2)
2. The policy contributes to the Priority Plan for Community Protection and Cohesion.

Provide information and advice on new legislation/guidance to regulated trade and businesses.

3. Will this policy have a significant impact on any of the following groups of people? Please mark all boxes indicating whether an impact has occurred, this could be **positive** or **negative**. Mark **None** if there is no impact. Help boxes are available to assist.

People of different ages

[Helpbox - Age](#)

People with ill health or people with a disability

[Helpbox - Disability](#)

People of different gender

[Helpbox - Gender \(Sex\)](#)

People who are transgender

[Helpbox - Transgender](#)

Different racial groups

[Helpbox - Race](#)

People with different religion or beliefs

[Helpbox - Religion or Beliefs](#)

People of different sexual orientation

[Helpbox - Sexual Orientation](#)

Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding

[Helpbox -Pregnancy and Maternity](#)

People that are married or in a civil partnership

[Helpbox - Marriage or Civil Partnership](#)

People affected by deprivation

[Helpbox - people affected by deprivation](#)

<b>Impact (X)</b>		
<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>None</b>
X		
X		
X		
		X
		X
		X
		X
		X
X		

4. What is the expected impact?

**People of Different Ages**

The policy will have a positive impact on people of all ages. Young people who enjoy the night-time economy use taxis and private hire vehicles as do elderly people who use licensed vehicles for going to the shops or to medical appointments as they offer a door to door service unlike other methods of public transport as this policy sets out what is expected of licensed drivers, vehicles and operators and the standards which must be achieved to be compliant with legislation and conditions of licence..

**People with ill health or people with a disability**

The policy will have a positive impact on people with ill health or people with a disability who use the door to door service that taxis and private hire vehicles provide. The policy states that drivers should be aware of their responsibilities under Equality legislation and be trained in the correct use of equipment in wheel chair accessible licensed vehicles.

**People of different gender**

According to the Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing, low-income young women (amongst whom car ownership is low) are one of the largest groups of users of taxis and private hire vehicles. The policy will have a positive impact on females as it details the criteria that drivers must achieve in order to be considered fit and proper persons.

**People who are transgender**

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on this characteristic.

**Different racial groups**

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on this characteristic.

**People with different religion or beliefs**

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on this characteristic.

**People of different sexual orientation.**

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on this characteristic.

**Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.**

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on this characteristic.

**People that are married or in a civil partnership**

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on this characteristic.

**People affected by deprivation.**

The policy will have a positive impact on this characteristic. According to the Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing, low-income young women (amongst whom car ownership is low) are one of the largest groups of users of taxis and private hire vehicles. This policy sets out what is expected of licensed drivers, vehicles and operators and the standards which must be achieved to be compliant with legislation and conditions of licence.

5. What engagement and consultation have you already carried out?

Please answer the following questions and include any additional information that is relevant;

The Licensing principles and processes contained within this policy have been the subject of previous reports to the Council's Licensing Committee in 2008 and 2010 when elected Members resolved to approve these principles and processes. In particular on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008, following a comprehensive review of the Council's

conditions of licence for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences, Members of the Licensing Committee resolved that it would be more appropriate for some of the conditions(which had been consulted on) to be removed from licences and instead be included in a policy document. These removed conditions are now included in this draft policy document. The information contained within Licensable Activities and Compliance and Enforcement in this policy have also been the subject of previous reports to the Council's Licensing Committee and to the Council's Taxi Forum. This policy is collating into one document principles and processes including those used in compliance and enforcement which are used in the day to day administering of Taxi and Private Hire Licences.

6. Please give brief details of any further engagement/consultation you plan to carry out with any of the above groups, particularly where you feel you don't have sufficient information.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Members of the Council's Licensing Committee will consider this draft policy and resolve whether to commence a twelve week public consultation exercise on the document in its current format. Following a consultation period, all comments and feedback arising from the consultation will be considered by the Council before a final policy document is published.

**You are at the end of Section 2 - have you completed all questions in this section?**

**Please ensure all questions are answered and then send your information to;**  
[Equalityanddiversity@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Equalityanddiversity@telford.gov.uk)

The Equality and Diversity Team will help you address/respond to any issues in  
**Section 3 – Mitigating Actions**

### **Section 3 – Mitigating Actions**

1. For any significant **negative** impacts identified in Section 2 (Questions 3 & 4), what action have you taken or will you be taking to reduce/manage these impacts?

2. For any significant positive impacts you identified in Section 2 (Questions 3 & 4) what action have you taken or will you be taking to maximise the opportunity?

The positive impact for all members of the community but in particular to vulnerable and disabled members of the community, will be maximised by reviewing the training currently given to drivers regarding driver awareness in relation to all passengers, but also to include more robust training ensuring that hackney carriage drivers are aware of their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

3. How do any of the above actions contribute to aims of the General Equality Duty;

- **eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation**
- **advance equality of opportunity**
- **foster good relations between different groups**

It will foster good relations between different groups because the written policy aims to clearly state to licence holders and members of the community the standards expected of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators.

#### **Section 4 – Review and Monitoring**

1. From what date will this policy be implemented?

No before 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

2. When will the actual impacts of the policy be monitored and reviewed?

12 months from the date of implementation.

3. How will the actual impact of the policy be monitored and reviewed?

- The Council will engage with Members of the Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Drivers' and Private Hire Operators' Associations.
- The Council will also monitor the number and nature of complaints received by the Licensing Service following the implementation of the policy in comparison with those received before implementation.

Ensure that appropriate confirmation has been given by your line manager.

## **Line Manager/Head of Service Agreement**

Community Impact Assessments will be published online and available on request. This will include the subject document, equality analysis, data sources and consultation evidence.

Please make sure that your Line Manager/Head of Service has been made aware of the content of the impact assessment and that they agree with it.

Arrange for your Line Manager/Head of Service to e-mail confirmation of agreement to; [equalityanddiversity@telford.gov.uk](mailto:equalityanddiversity@telford.gov.uk)

The Equality and Diversity team will create a summary for ease of access, please make sure that you forward any relevant documentation you have referred to with the e-mail.

**Thank you conducting this Community Impact Assessment, should you have any questions please contact 01952 382104 or e-mail [equalityanddiversity@telford.gov.uk](mailto:equalityanddiversity@telford.gov.uk)**