

Appendix F - 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?

Increase in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees

It is quite legitimate for a local authority to recover as much of their costs as they are able to when administering Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences. A Council when setting fees, should have regard to the impact that any increase may have upon the livelihood of licence holders. However, the regulation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators is costly in respect of resources. Licences are processed individually as each application must be considered on its own merits. Each licence has a set of conditions attached to it and it is the Local Authority's statutory duty to ensure that conditions of licence of complied with together with the requirements of the law surrounding the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade. The overriding aim must be to protect the public and to provide an efficient and effective service to licence holders, residents, business and visitors to the Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

The level of fees and other charges for Hackney Carriage/Dual and Private Hire were last reviewed by the Licensing Authority in 2009/2010. On 1st December 2010 Members of the Council's Licensing Committee approved an increase in the level of fees based on actual cost recovery via a staged increase over a period of time.

Following the publication of a notice advertising the proposed increase in fees and charges, which resulted in no representations being made to the Council, 50% of the proposed increase was duly implemented on 1st March 2011.

A further review has been carried out twelve months later and a new level of fees and charges proposed based on cost recovery of administering Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences.

2. This policy affects

- Customers/service-users
- Partners
- Licence holders

3. What period does the policy cover?

The increase in licence fees will cover the next financial year and comes into effect on 1st April 2012.

4.

Name of person completing impact assessment and their post	Suzanne Fisher
Telephone	01952 383261
Date	1 st March 2012

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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](#)

	Impact (X)		
	Positive	Negative	None
People of different ages Helpbox - Age		X	X
People with ill health or people with a disability Helpbox - Disability	X	X	
People of different gender Helpbox - Gender (Sex)		X	
People who are transgender Helpbox - Transgender			X
Different racial groups Helpbox - Race		X	X
People with different religion or beliefs Helpbox - Religion or Beliefs			X
People of different sexual orientation Helpbox - Sexual Orientation			X
Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding Helpbox -Pregnancy and Maternity			X
People that are married or in a civil partnership Helpbox - Marriage or Civil Partnership			X
People affected by deprivation Helpbox - people affected by deprivation		X	

4. What is the expected impact?

People of Different Ages

Community

The expected impact is that licence holders will pay an increased licence fee which may lead to a **negative impact** of an increase in taxi fares for the community. We have no local data, however, national data, according to the Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing, says that low-income young women are one of the largest groups of users of taxis and private hire vehicles.

Licence Holders

The equality data collected by the Licensing Service shows that there is a variety of ages across the numbers of licence holders and an increase in licence fee will therefore not impact on any particular age group.

People with Ill Health or People with a Disability

Community

The expected impact is that licence holders will pay an increased licence fee which may lead to an increase in taxi fares for disabled communities. Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles provide a door to door service for those disabled members of the community who are not able to use other forms of public transport. An overall increase in fares resulting from an increase in licence fee will have a negative impact on this characteristic.

People of Different Gender

The expected impact is that licence holders will pay an increased licence fee which may lead to an increase in taxi fares for men and women. 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 equality data collected by the Licensing Service shows that 97% of licensed drivers are male and therefore, those licence holders who are the only income earner in households will be paying an increased licence fee to the Council, therefore this increase could have a negative impact of men who are the only earner within a household..

Different Racial Groups

The equality data collected by the Licensing Service shows that there is a variety of ethnicities across the numbers of licence holders who will be paying an increase in licence fees. The numbers of licence holders from minority backgrounds (predominantly Asian) is around 64% of the total number of licence holders as against 5% of the population of the Borough. The policy could have a negative impact on this group of people if the increase sees a reduction in the numbers of drivers continuing with employment. This will need to be monitored.

I have no evidence which indicates that this policy will impact on racial groups within the community as users of licensed vehicles.

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

People who are Transgender

Religion or Beliefs

People of Different Sexual Orientation

**Women who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding
.Marriage of Civil Partnership**

People affected by Deprivation

This policy will have a negative impact if taxi/private hire fares are increased as a result of the increase in licence fees. According to the Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing, low-income young women are one of the largest groups of users of taxis and private hire vehicles.

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

The Licensing Service has carried out a benchmarking exercise with other local authorities in Telford & Wrekin Council's family group. This information will be attached to a public report which will be considered by the Council's Licensing Committee on 13th March 2012.

<http://www.telford.gov.uk/apps/demservice/DisplayDocument.asp?type=doc&ref=13108>.

At a meeting of the Taxi and Private Hire Forum held at Civic Offices on 25th January 2012, members of the Forum were informed of the review being carried out on the costs of administering Taxi and Private Hire Licences and that a report would be going to the Council's Licensing Committee on 13th March 2012.

There will be a further consultation following the meeting on 13th March 2012 should Members resolve to increase the Licence fees.

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

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?

By consulting with both customers and service users and by taking their objections into consideration before implementing an increase will reduce the negative impact on licence holders.

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 policy will have a positive impact by improving access to users, particularly for the disabled community.

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**

The actions taken during and after the consultation process will ensure that members of the community who might be affected by negative impacts will have their concerns listened to and acted upon. This will also contributed to fostering good relations between different groups. By setting a review date of licence fees before the end of the next financial year, the negative impacts will be monitored and reviewed.

Section 4 – Review and Monitoring

1. From what date will this policy be implemented?

1st April 2012

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

Date . December 2012

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

The increase in licensing fees was calculated at a cost recovery level from the financial year 2011/12. Licence fees will be further reviewed by the Council in December 2012 by the Public Protection Service Manager and the Council's Finance Officer in relation to the financial year 2012/13, the numbers of licences issued and the effects of the increase of 1st April 2012.

The impact that these changes will have on the community will also be monitored by reviewing the numbers of licensed vehicles in the Borough.

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

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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

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