

Equality Impact Assessment Template

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

Version 4: January 2019

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards
Directorate and Service Area	Adult Social Care, Health and Well Being Regulated Services – Taxi Licensing
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Fiona Gee Licensing Supervisor
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Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Tracy Hubball – Operations Manager Nicola Plant – Service Manager
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	N/A
Date EIA completed	23 October 2020
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Neil Cox, Director – Prevention and Protection
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required
(Please provide as much information as possible)**

The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards document was issued by the Secretary of State for Transport on 21 July 2020 under section 177 (1) of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

The standards set out the framework of policies that, under section 177(4), licensing authorities “**must have regard**” to when exercising their functions. This requires public authorities, in formulating a policy, to give consideration the weight which is proportionate in the circumstances. Given that the standards have been set directly to address the safeguarding of the public and the potential impact of failings in this area, the importance of thoroughly considering these standards cannot be overstated. It recommends that the standards must be considered rigorously and with an open mind.

Although it remains the case that licensing authorities must reach their own decisions, both on overall policies and on individual licensing matters in light of the relevant law, it may be that the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards might be drawn upon in any legal challenge to an authority’s practice, and that any failure to adhere to the standards without sufficient justification could be detrimental to the authority’s defence.

Licensing authorities should consult on proposed changes in licensing rules that may have significant impacts on passengers and/or the trade. Such consultation should include not only the taxi and private hire vehicle trades, but also groups likely to be the trades customers.

In this context the proposal is to undertake a consultation process on the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards published by the Department for Transport and the changes that would be required to Sandwell’s Private Hire and hackney Carriage Licensing policy should these be adopted.

2. Evidence used/considered

The requirements for consultation stated in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards issued by the Department of Transport in July 2020.

The requirement to consult on any proposed changes to the councils Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy that was adopted on 1st August 2018.

The Public Law Duty to Consult.

3. Consultation

There has been no consultation at this point as the recommendation in the report is to undertake a consultation process.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
	✓	✓	✓	
Age			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.
Disability	✓			The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards have a focus to support reducing the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers. 'Vulnerable passengers for the purposes of the standards are defined as vulnerable adults under section 42 of the Care Act 2014. Therefore the proposal may

				have a positive impact on some individuals within this protected characteristic.
Gender reassignment			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.
Marriage and civil partnership			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.

Race			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.
Religion or belief			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.
Sex			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.
Sexual orientation			✓	The consultation would be on the proposed changes required to the current policy if the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were to be adopted. The standards hold no identified impact for this protected characteristic. The standards have a focus to reduce the risk of harm posed to children and vulnerable passengers however all passengers will benefit.

Other			✓	The consultation would be on whether or not to adopt in part or as a whole the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards. The standards generic, hold no negative impact and the subject is addresses/prohibits is not particular to a specific group. On this basis, there are no impacts that are specific to any or all protected characteristics.
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Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

This will be monitored by the Taxi Licensing service.
The Licensing Committee.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

9. Publish the EIA

The Taxi Licensing service

Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

Practical advice, guidance and support

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Service Improvement. The officers within Service Improvement will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

Please contact:

Kashmir Singh - 0121 569 3828