

# 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)	Hackney Carriage Fare Review
Directorate and Service Area	Borough Economy 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	N/A
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	N/A
Date EIA completed	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	Director – Borough Economy
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Alice Davey
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)**

A request was received from 13 licence holders who operate hackney carriage vehicles in the Sandwell Borough. The reason for the request was due to the increase in fuel prices and the cost of living.

The Council is responsible for setting the fares and the trade are entitled to make a request for the fees to be either increased or decreased at any time. The last time such a request was received was in 2013 when a request was received, consulted upon and subsequently adopted.

When a request is received, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act states that on receipt of a request, that the Council should treat this as an Executive function and not a Council function and that the proposed table of fares is published in the local newspaper giving at least 14 days for objections. If no objections are received, then the fares take effect on the specified date which is usually the day after the closing date for objections. If objections are received and then withdrawn, the fares take effect on the specified date or date of withdrawal of last objection, if later. The Local Authority can modify the table of fares in light of these objections. In the event that they chose not to, then the fare table as originally proposed comes into effect on a new date which must be within two months of the original date. In the event that they do modify the fare table, the revised fare table comes into effect on a new date which again must be within two months of the original date.

**2. Evidence used/considered**

Since the last fare increase in 2013 fuel costs, vehicle running costs and living costs have steadily increased. Despite this throughout that time no increase in fares has been requested by Sandwell Hackney Carriage drivers. With further increases now forecast the request has now been received.

The national league table for Hackney Fares as published in the Private Hire and Taxi monthly. At the time of receiving the request for the increase in fares Sandwell was ranked at 267 out of 358 local authorities. The league table is based upon the cost of a two-mile journey.

If the increased was to be approved following consultation it is estimated that Sandwell would then move to 37 in the league table as at January 2022.

### 3. Consultation

Consultation will be undertaken in line with legislative requirements with an advert being placed in the local press detailing the proposed increases and giving 14 days for objections to be received. In the event of objections being received, the matter will be referred back to Cabinet for determination.

### 4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The introduction of new charges will have an impact on all residents that use this form of transport however the trade propose the increase in charges reflects the cost of delivering their service.

As the charges will be applicable to all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is recognised that some groups may be in receipt of lower income.

The proposals in the report will be subject to a consultation where these such concerns may be raised and then considered in the context of a proportionate need for the trade to be able to maintain service delivery.

**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?)
	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Age</b>			✓	The increase in fares will affect all individual that use this form of transport. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is recognised that some older people may be in receipt of lower income. This is therefore identified in the EIA. A consultation will be undertaken and the outcome of this can then be considered alongside balancing the needs of the trade to be able to deliver service.
<b>Disability</b>			✓	The increase in fares will affect all individual that use this form of transport. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is recognised that some older people may be in receipt of lower income. This is therefore identified in the EIA. A consultation will be undertaken and the

				outcome of this can then be considered alongside balancing the needs of the trade to be able to deliver service.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.

<b>Race</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.
<b>Religion or belief</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.
<b>Sex</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>			✓	The impact of the new charges will impact on all residents. Whilst it cannot be stated that this will disproportionately impact on someone by virtue of the sharing a particular protected characteristic, it is not considered that people under this protected characteristic will be is disproportionately affected.
<b>Other</b>			✓	

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?**

The report proposes a consultation on the proposals to increase charges and this consultation will seek to include stakeholders from groups associated with those with protected characteristics that may be affected.

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

There is a need to balance the need of the trade to be able to afford to provide their services. The consultation will include representatives those groups with protected characteristics that may be affected.

**7. Monitoring arrangements**

**8. Action planning**

You may wish to use the action plan template below

