



Ref No: EQ425117565

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Title of report: Change to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Report : Change the age limit on licensed vehicles imposed by the policy to mitigate against the potential for a large number of wheelchair accessible vehicles leaving the trade and not being replaced.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.: Customers complaints/comments, Analysis of service data (e.g I-card)

Service area: Public Protection

Corporate Manager: Ian Blofield

Corporate Manager email: Ian.Blofield@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available:

Please upload any supporting documents: Taxi Policy Sep 2021.pdf

What is proposed?: To change the age limit for existing licensed wheelchair accessible vehicles to 15 years old, instead of 10 years old, and to introduce the ability for an ultra-low emission wheelchair accessible vehicle to be licensed as a hackney carriage if it is less than 10 years old.

Why are the changes being introduced?: The current policy requires all licensed vehicles to be less than 10 years old when their licence is renewed in 2025. All new hackney carriage (taxi) vehicles must be less than 4 years old when first presented for licensing.

The changes are being proposed to retain a large number of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the trade from 2025.

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?: Data from database which shows that of 86 licensed wheelchair accessible vehicles, 72 will need to be replaced in 2025 due to the age limits.

The covid pandemic and current economic climate combine to make it very difficult for drivers to afford to replace their wheelchair accessible vehicle, as these vehicles are very expensive compared to a saloon vehicle.

How will this change be implemented?: It will be communicated to the trade via newsletters.

Age: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: N/A

Disability: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: By making changes to the policy which are intended to maintain the fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles and encourage more ultra-low emission wheelchair accessible vehicles to become licensed, disabled passengers who require a wheelchair accessible vehicle to travel, should be able to book such a vehicle.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: N/A

Race: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: n/a

Pregnancy & Maternity: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: n/a

Religion or Belief: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: n/a

Gender Reassignment: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: n/a

Sex: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: n/a

Sexual Orientation: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: n/a

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives: I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the

following way(s):: By recognising, early, that a Policy could potentially lead to indirect discrimination and making necessary changes to mitigate against that risk.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): A passenger who requires a wheelchair accessible vehicle in order to travel should be afforded the same opportunity to hire such a vehicle. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure it's policies do not impact on that opportunity.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):The drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles can continue to ply their trade for longer, without needing to change their vehicle due to it's age;
In turn, this maintains a fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles required by disabled passengers.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s):They will be reviewed constantly, but particularly after 2025 when the new age limits will come into effect for licensed vehicles.
