

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	To extend the deadline by two years for Euro 5 diesel wheel chair accessible vehicles to comply with the requirement to have a Euro 6 engine by 1 st January 2023
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) licensing in Southampton is undertaken by Southampton City Council (the Council) as the licensing authority, which has the responsibility for ensuring the public travel in safe, well maintained vehicles driven by competent drivers, while providing a fair and reasonable service for the taxi and PHV trade. Currently the Council grants over 3000 licences to over 2000 individuals.</p> <p>To deliver its responsibilities, the Council’s core functions in taxi and PHV licensing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting the local framework, which can include safeguarding standards, fares, vehicles standards and limits on vehicle numbers; • considering licence applications and safeguarding the public by issuing, reviewing or revoking licences; and, • undertaking inspection and enforcement activities to ensure the required standards are being maintained. <p>The number of hackney carriage licences is restricted to 283 and the final 70 are required to be wheel chair accessible vehicles (WAVs). There is no such limit on private hire vehicles and it is not lawful to set a limit making it impractical to impose similar conditions to private hire vehicles. As a result there are only 38 private hire vehicles that are WAVs.</p>	
Summary of Impact and Issues	
A small number of vehicles will be allowed to continue to operate with older, more polluting vehicles whilst remaining licensed by us.	

Potential Positive Impacts	
Increases the likelihood of the vehicles remaining licensed by SCC where they have a clear deadline in two years to find less polluting vehicles. This will retain the service to wheelchairs users in the city.	
Responsible Service Manager	Phil Bates, Licensing Manger
Date	
Approved by Senior Manager	Mary D'Arcy, Executive Director, Communities, Culture & Homes
Date	12.10.21

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	No identified impact	N/A
Disability	Will retain the service in SCC licensed vehicles with high safety standards. No negative impact	N/A
Gender Reassignment	No identified impact	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No identified impact	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	No identified impact	N/A
Race	No identified impact	N/A
Religion or Belief	No identified impact	N/A
Sex	No identified impact	N/A
Sexual Orientation	No identified impact	N/A
Community Safety	Taxis and private hire vehicles are a high risk environment.	Encouraging more drivers and vehicles to be licensed by SCC will improve public safety as SCC is one of a small number of authorities that require taxi cameras to be fitted.
Poverty	No identified impact	N/A
Health & Wellbeing	Older Private hire vehicles emit more harmful emissions but this is a very small number of vehicles so the	The exemption is limited in numbers of vehicles to 40

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	impact is negligible and approved by government.	vehicles and is time limited to two years.
Other Significant Impacts	No identified impact	N/A