

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: Communities, Housing & Environment	Service area: Taxi & Private Hire Licensing
Lead person: Andrew White	Contact number: 0113 378 1561

1. Title: Request for increase in Hackney Carriage fare, 2022

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

Hackney carriage journey fares (unlike those of private hire vehicles) are regulated. The licensing authority sets the maximum fare which may be charged.

The fares were last increased in 2018. Since that time, there has been a significant increase in the general cost of living and the specific cost of fuel. In the last 12 months, the cost of petrol has risen by more than 30p a litre and diesel by more than 40p.

Unite the Union has requested, and the Leeds Hackney Carriage Joint Trade Council trade would welcome a fare review which would increase the cost of each journey by 50p, and allow them to keep pace with their rising costs. This would also entail passing on some additional cost to passengers, many of whom use

hackney carriages because of their lack of access to other modes of transport.

When the council last reviewed the hackney carriage fares, and in previous years, the council received objections from some individuals and organisations, stating that hackney carriage fare rises affect low income earners, women, elderly and disabled people. The council will need to take account of the responses to the engagement/consultation.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	X	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		X
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment • Advancing equality of opportunity • Fostering good relations 	X	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

- **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (**think about** the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

The direct beneficiaries of the proposed change will be hackney carriage drivers and owners/proprietors. According to the information held by the council, this group is over 70% Muslim, over 72% BAME and over 90% male.

The indirect beneficiaries (from having a supply of hackney carriage vehicles) and directly adversely affected, by paying a 50p higher fare are the users of hackney carriages. According to national information (DfT June 2021), this group is more than 50% female, has a higher proportion of people with a disability or other mobility need, includes a higher proportion of older people.

- **Key findings** (**think about** any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

It is evident that some groups of people, including those with protected characteristics, are more reliant on hackney carriages (and private hire vehicles) than the population as a whole. Some people regularly use hackney carriages, especially those people for whom hackney carriages accommodate their wheelchair or other mobility aid.

It is also evident that the significant increase in the cost of living, especially the cost of fuel, disadvantages hackney carriage drivers and owners/proprietors, which also has an impact on people who use those vehicles in order to travel. If those vehicles were not available and maintained, and run by the driver and owner/proprietor at a small margin, then those people would not be able to travel.

The proposed 50p increase in fare represents a small increase in fares, but may impact disproportionately on people who use many hackney carriages each week.

- **Actions**
(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)
- The council will engage/consult on the proposed fare increase and respond to responses/objections it receives.**

5. If you are **not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you **will need to carry out an impact assessment.****

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	20 June 2022
Date to complete your impact assessment	27 June 2022
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	Andrew White

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew White	Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Manager	13 June 2022
Date screening completed		13 June 2022

7. Publishing

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent: 13 June 2022
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: