

## Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

### Equality Analysis Form

By completing this form you will provide evidence of how your service is helping to meet Stroud District Council's General Equality duty:

The Equality Act 2010 states that:

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have **due regard** to the need to –*

*(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;*

*(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*

*(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The protected characteristics are listed in Question 9

Stroud District Equality data can be found at: <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity/>

#### 1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name(s): Rachel Andrew	Telephone: 01453 754440
	E-Mail: rachel.andrew@stroud.gov.uk
Service: Licensing Service	Date of Assessment: 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022

#### 2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

Review of Stroud District Council's Taxi and private hire vehicle age/emissions policy

Is this new or an existing one?      **Review of existing vehicle policy**

#### 3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

Review taxi and private hire licensing conditions to consider moving from an 'age' condition to an 'emissions'-based condition to encourage an increase in the percentage of low and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles

**4. Are there external considerations? (Legislation / government directive, etc)**

No

**5. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?**

The aim of the policy is to reduce the emissions from taxis and private hire vehicles licensed by Stroud District Council with the aim of protecting our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030.

**6. What outcomes are expected?**

Stroud District Council currently has a vehicle policy based on age which means that new vehicle applications must be for vehicles less than 5 years old and renewal applications are only permitted for vehicles less than 10 years old. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are currently exempt from this policy.

A report being submitted to Community Services and Licensing Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 will propose a new policy for consultation. The proposal is that the 5-year or less age policy for first licensing will remain but on renewal the 10-year age policy will be replaced with a condition requiring vehicles to either be Euro 6 compliant or be a ultra low emissions vehicle (ULEV). The proposal recommends that wheelchair chair accessible vehicles continue to be exempt from the 5 year age policy on first licensing but that a new requirement is imposed that such vehicles must be Euro 6 compliant or ULEV

**7. What evidence has been used for this assessment?: (eg Research, previous consultations, Inform (MAIDEN); Google assessments carried out by other Authorities)**

Review and research has been undertaken by the Taxi Emissions Task and Finish Group who are recommending the changes to the current taxi and private hire vehicle policy. Their findings and observations are outlined in the report for Community Services and Licensing Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**8. Has any consultation been carried out?**

Yes

**Details of consultation**

Informal consultation with the taxi trade November 2022

**If NO please outline any planned activities**

The proposed new policy will be considered by Community Services and Licensing Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 prior to formal consultation which will take place between December 2022 and February 2023. This consultation will include the taxi licensed trade, relevant agencies such as

the Gloucestershire County Council integrated transport team and agencies and bodies representing taxi users.

**9. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?**

*(Negative – it could disadvantage and therefore potentially not meet the General Equality duty;*

*Positive – it could benefit and help meet the General Equality duty;*

*Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact / Not sure)*

Protected Group	Type of impact, reason and any evidence (from Q7 & 8)
Age	
Disability	<p>Restrictions on emission compliance of wheelchair accessible taxi and private hire vehicles may result in a reduction in the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles being licensed.</p> <p>Conversely, there could be a positive benefit for people living with a respiratory illness or disability, as the proposed emissions policy will contribute towards cleaner air.</p>
Gender Re-assignment	
Pregnancy & Maternity	
Race	
Religion – Belief	
Sex	
Sexual Orientation	
Marriage & Civil Partnerships (part (a) of duty only)	
<b>Rural considerations:</b> le Access to services; transport; education; employment; broadband;	

**10. If you have identified a negative impact in question 9, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?**


**Please transfer any actions to your Service Action plan on Excelsis.**

<b>Action(s):</b>	<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
The Task and Finish Group considered the potential impact of a vehicle emissions policy on the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles. The Group are proposing that a balance can be achieved between equality and emissions by continuing the exemption, (for new applications for wheelchair accessible taxis and private hire vehicles), from the 5 year age policy on first licensing, but introducing a new requirement that vehicles must be either Euro 6 compliant or an ultra-low emission vehicle. The proposal is also that, current wheel accessible vehicles already licensed that do not meet these criteria, can remain licensed provided that they remain in good working condition. If the proposal is approved by Community Services and Licensing Committee for consultation, then the consultation exercise will include bodies and groups representing taxi customers and wheelchair users,	Rachel Andrew		Following formal consultation, a report with a final recommendation will be submitted to Community Services and Licensing Committee in March 2023 with a final recommendation for adoption and implementation from 1 April 2023

## **Declaration**

**I/We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy, and where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.**

**We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment**

<b>Completed by: Rachel Andrew</b>	<b>Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>
<b>Role: Licensing Manager</b>	
<b>Countersigned by Head of Service/Director:</b>   <b>Sarah Clark</b>	<b>Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>