

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Taxi Licensing Policy – Fully Electric Hackney Carriage Vehicles
Service Area: Legal Regulatory Services
Directorate: Chief Executives

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	✓	
Staff		✓
Wider community	✓	
Internal administrative process only		✓

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		✓				It is anticipated that there will be none or negligible impact on the existing accessibility level of wheelchair accessible vehicles. Should there be a pattern of wheelchair accessible vehicles being replaced by non-wheelchair accessible fully electric vehicles, then the policy will quickly be reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Committee and suitable amendments made appropriately.
Disability			✓			
Gender Reassignment		✓				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		✓				
Pregnancy/Maternity		✓				
Race		✓				
Religion/Belief		✓				
Sex		✓				

Sexual orientation		✓				
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4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		✓				There is no impact on any of these as this policy relates to hackney carriage vehicle licensing.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		✓				

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		✓				No impact The move to fully electric vehicles will undoubtedly have benefits to air quality. This policy amendment will make it easier for hackney carriage operators to licence a fully electric vehicle.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	✓					

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	✓		The policy change will provide those that wish to purchase a fully electric vehicle the opportunity to purchase and licence a cheaper alternative to a fully electric wheelchair accessible vehicle. The proposal however will have safeguards in place to ensure that at far as possible the existing wheelchair accessible vehicle availability be retained.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	✓		Taxi drivers play an important role in ensuring a safe night time economy, providing an essential service for people to get home safely. Ensuring that unsuitable drivers are prevented from obtaining a licence helps safeguard the wellbeing of both adults and children.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	✓		It is proposed to carry out a consultation exercise with the existing hackney carriage and private hire trade including the RMT union and the taxi associations.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		The proposed amendment to the policy is designed to assist with Welsh Government's Transport Strategy plan 2021 which aims to have all hackney carriage and private hire vehicles zero emission by 2040.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		The proposed policy amendment will help with the move towards zero emission vehicles. However, there is a risk that taxi operators may look to replace existing wheelchair accessible vehicles with zero emission non-wheelchair accessible vehicles. To protect against this, officers will monitor patterns of vehicles being replaced and report to members where patterns are observed.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this conclusion	
The proposal is not expected to impact on the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles and therefore there should be none or negligible impact on any of the protected characteristics.	

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Neil Chapple	Legal Regulatory Manager	7th October 2022
Signed off by	Craig Griffiths	Head of Legal & Dem. Serv.	7th October 2022