

FULL COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate)	To consider the removal of age restrictions on licensed vehicles	
Lead Officer Name(s):	Tracy Brzozowski	
Job Title & Location:	Licensing and Enforcement Manager	
Department/Service Area:	Legal and Democratic/Licensing	
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Date Assessment:	Commenced: 25 th May 2012	Completed: 25 th May 2012

We carry out Community Impact Assessments to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The CIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.

1. OVERVIEW

The main aims/objectives of this policy¹ are:
<p>The aim of this policy decision is to determine whether the Council should continue with the current age restrictions on licenced vehicles which is that vehicles can be licenced as a hackney carriage vehicle or private hire vehicle up to 5 years and 364 days from first registration and can then remain as licenced vehicles until the age of 7 years and 364 days old. If a mini bus was licenced then it could remain licenced until the age of 9 years and 364 days.</p> <p>The Rossendale Taxi Association have requested that there is no restriction on the age a vehicle can be licenced as a hackney and Private hire vehicle.</p>

(Refer to "**CIA Guidance**" for details)

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

The main intended people or groups that will be most affected by this policy are:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers 2. The members of the public travelling in the vehicles. 3. Enforcement officers and administration officers of the Licensing and

¹ Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

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(Refer to "**CIA Guidance**" for details)

2. FINDINGS / EVIDENCE

FINDINGS/EVIDENCE: The following information/data has been considered in developing this policy/decision (including any consultation or engagement):	
Information/data obtained and/or Consultation/engagement carried out (please state who with)	What does this tell us? / What does it say?
The current restrictions ensure that all licenced vehicles maintain a smart appearance and the interior of the vehicle remains functionally usable for the members of the public	Older vehicles are more susceptible to bodywork erosion and the high use of the interior would increase wear and tear on the fabric of the vehicle. The older the vehicles are the more use they would have reducing the visual appearance of the vehicle
Best practice guidelines issued by the Department of Transport suggests no age limit on vehicles and the Rossendale Borough Council Taxi Policy requires all licenced vehicles to undertake and pass two MOT tests and two Rossendale tests a year	All licenced vehicles are regularly tested and the roadworthiness of the vehicle is proved to be acceptable for use as a taxi at the time the test is undertaken. The LEU send out reminders a month before the 6 and 12 Month MOT tests are required.
Rossendale Borough Council do not have their own qualified vehicle inspectors to undertake the MOT and Rossendale Test so this is done by 3 approved garages throughout the Borough	The garages used are approved MOT testing stations so the standards are checked regularly by VOSA engineers. The vehicle tests will be of a high standard and the vehicles will be in a road worthy condition when the test is taken.
The approved garages have entered into a service level agreement (SLA) with the council to notify the council of any vehicles which fail the tests before the end of the working day on which the tests are carried out.	The LEU are notified of all MOT failures and are able to follow up on licenced vehicles which are shown as having faults and any which are classed as dangerous.
The vehicle owners have to produce the MOT test pass certificate to the LEU on the 6 and 12 month anniversary of the vehicles date of first licence.	The vehicle owners do not always produce the MOT test pass certificate to the LEU and staff are then required to send letters for the suspension of the vehicles which include a date for the vehicle to be presented at the Council offices. The enforcement officers then have to carry out a Rossendale Test which increases the workload of the staff in the LEU. If older vehicles are allowed then this may increase the number of failures.

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The LEU undertake joint operations with VOSA where licenced vehicles are taken to an approved garage and tested. On a recent operation 7 vehicles were tested and 6 failed the mechanical examination providing a failure rate of 85.7%

Although licenced vehicles are tested twice a year there a large number of vehicles which deteriorate between the two MOT tests which they undertake. The increase in older vehicles would increase the deterioration of the vehicles

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3. EQUALITY IMPACT

Using the table below please indicate whether the policy/strategy/decision has a positive, negative or no impact from an Equalities perspective on any of the protected equality groups listed below. **Please also give consideration to wider equality of opportunity and community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified.** See CIA Guidance

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Younger people and children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Black or black British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Irish people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Chinese people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belief or Religion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian women , gay men and bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to equality of opportunity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&documentID=251		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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4. OUTCOME OF CIA – COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN

What course of action does this CIA suggest you take? More than one of the following may apply	Please indicate
Outcome 1: No major change required. The CIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 2: Adjust the policy to remove barriers identified by the CIA or better promote equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers identified? If there is a negative impact identified, you must consider (and evidence/record) what mitigating actions you have or will put in place to reduce the negative impact where/if possible, and to enhance the positive impact. This might include any partnership discussions/working that needs to be undertaken. Complete CIA Action Plan as appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 3: Continue the policy despite potential for negative impact or missed opportunities to promote equality identified. You will need to ensure that the CIA clearly sets out the justifications for continuing with it. You should consider whether there are sufficient plans to reduce the negative impact and/or plans to monitor the actual impact. This might include any partnership discussions/working that needs to be undertaken. Complete CIA Action Plan as appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 4: Stop and rethink the policy when the CIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination or significant negative impact that can not be justified or mitigated against. <u>You must speak to Liz Sandiford (2452) or Emma Hussain (2451) immediately.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If a negative impact as been identified and there are no sufficient mitigating actions in place or planned. Please see the guidance and you must speak to/ see advice from your Head of Service or Head of People and Policy.

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5 . CIA ACTION PLAN & REVIEW

Based on the impact assessment, findings/evidence and outcomes identified above, please complete the Action Plan below – these should be actions arising as a result of undertaking the CIA.

The Action Plan should address (not exhaustively):-

- Any gaps in findings/evidence research including any consultation or engagement regarding the policy and its actual/potential affects.
- How you will address any gaps.
- What practical changes/action will help reduce any negative impacts that you have identified.
- What practical changes/action will help enhance any positive contributions to equality.

Further Actions Required: Yes No

CIA Action Plan

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale
The Licensing Committee should determine whether the age restriction should be removed	Licensing Committee 12 th July 2012	TB	

Please add more rows if required.

Actions arising from the Impact assessment should form part of the business planning process for service areas and be reflected within the Council's Corporate Equality Action Plan on Covalent.

Monitoring & Reviewing the Effect of the Policy

Please state how you will monitor the impact and effect of this policy and where this will be reported:

The monitoring of the condition of licensed vehicles across the Borough shall be recorded and presented to the Licensing Committee within the current LEU enforcement report.

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INTERNAL ONLY

MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the Head of P&P following Management Team review)

- Outcome of CIA agreed/approved by Management Team : Yes No
- Referred back to Assessor for amendment : (date)
- Published/made publicly available on: (date)

Signed:..... (Head of P&P) Date:

Date of Review²:

[To be completed by the lead officer]

² This date will be set on an annual basis as default for review unless otherwise specified by you.

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