

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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 and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide 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 and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Hackney Carriage Tariffs	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety and Street Scene (Licensing)
Lead person: Alan Pogorzelec	Contact: Alan Pogorzelec
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
We are proposing to increase the tariffs that govern the fares that are charged by local Hackney Carriages. We are screening this proposal to assess the impact on people that use Hackney Carriages in Rotherham.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

Although, the proposal relates solely to the services provided by Hackney Carriages (not the Council) the fares that those vehicles charge are set by the Council. Therefore, as a consequence of this increase there is the potential for the Cabinet decision to impact on service users.

However, the impact will be in the form of increased prices that are applied equally across all users of hackney carriage services (i.e. regardless of the customers specific characteristics). The service will still be available, and therefore access to the service will not be affected – there is however the potential for the price increase to disproportionately affect certain individuals due to their increased dependence on Hackney Carriages. It is possible that these individuals could share protected characteristics and therefore the impact would have a greater impact on those individuals than others. This means that although the proposals will have an equal impact on all members of the community, there is the potential for it to have a greater impact on people with protected characteristics. A screening assessment has therefore been carried out in relation to this proposal and the impact on the protected characteristics. The findings of my assessment are shown below:

– Age

There is no evidence available that suggests that Hackney Carriages are more likely to be used by persons of a particular age. Observations have been carried out regarding hackney carriage usage at the rank on Effingham St and customers were from a range of ages. Therefore there is not considered to be any likelihood that the changes will have a disproportionate effect on service users as a result of their age.

– Disability.

There are 52 hackney carriages in Rotherham, with all but three of them being standard saloon / hatchback cars (the remaining three being wheelchair accessible vehicles).

As the vast majority of Hackney Carriages are unmodified saloon / hatchback vehicles it is not possible to say with any degree of confidence that disabled customers rely more on Hackney Carriages than non-disabled customers (i.e. there is nothing specific about the nature of most Hackney Carriages that means that disabled customers would prefer them over Private Hire Vehicles).

A very small number of Hackney Carriages are however wheelchair accessible, and therefore there is the potential that wheelchair users will favour these vehicles over any other. During the time that observations were carried at the taxi rank, none of the customers that were observed were wheelchair users or appeared to be mobility impaired to the extent that they would have difficulty in entering and travelling in an unmodified saloon / hatchback vehicle.

Enquiries have been made with the trade, and they have reported that the numbers of customers that require a wheelchair accessible vehicle is negligible. It is apparent that the low number of wheelchair accessible vehicles on the Hackney Carriage fleet has meant that customers requiring these vehicles utilise the services of a Private Hire company that specialises in this type of transport.

It cannot therefore be said that the proposals will disproportionately affect disabled customers.

– gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex.

There is no data available regarding hackney carriage users that may share any of these protected characteristics. However, it is difficult to see how any service users that share these characteristics would prefer to travel by Hackney Carriage solely because of that characteristic. It is not considered likely that the proposals will disproportionately affect any individuals with these characteristics.

There is nothing in the proposals that will affect the council's approach to commissioning and procurement, employment practices or the Council's workforce.

Although the findings of my screening assessment do not indicate that the proposals will have implications for equalities, the proposals will be subjected to a 14-day period of statutory consultation and any comments received during this consultation will be considered before any revised tariffs are introduced.

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Alan Pogorzelec	Licensing Manager	12 th December 2023

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	12/12/23
Report title and date	Hackney Carriage Tariffs Jan 2024
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet 22 nd January 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	12 th December 2023