

Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

This is an integrated Impact Assessment which aims to ensure Newport City Council makes decisions which are fair, take account of relevant evidence, and seek to secure the best outcomes for our communities. **An FEIA should be used to inform the first steps of decision-making, at concept stage, not when a decision is already made, or at the point when it cannot be influenced.** This impact assessment considers our legislative responsibilities under:

- The Equality Act (2010), including the Socio-economic Duty
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)
- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011)

The FEIA process is not intended to prevent decisions being made, but to ensure we have considered their potential impact. An FEIA also helps us to focus on how we can reduce any negative impacts, and provides us with evidence that we have met our legal duties.

For support to complete your FEIA, please contact the [Connected Communities Team](#)

What do we mean by Fairness?

The Newport Fairness Commission is an independent body which advises the council on the best use of resources and powers to achieve the fairest outcomes for local people. The Fairness Commission has established four **Principles of Fairness** which should be considered as part of any decisions that the council make – the questions below are useful to reflect on before you start your FEIA.

Equity	Are people being treated in a consistent way, whilst acknowledging their differences (for example, need, barriers to accessing services)?
	Will the gap between those with more, and those with less be reduced?
	Have the interests of different groups affected (including minority or disadvantaged communities) been taken into account?
Priority	Have the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable across the city been given priority?
	Have you considered possible indirect consequences for minority/disadvantaged communities when other priorities are directing decisions?
Inclusion	Will the voices of all those affected by your decision be heard?
	Are people able to participate in and shape a service, as well as receiving it?
	Have you considered the impact of your decision on the relationship between communities, and the spaces they share?
Communication	Are decisions being made transparently and consistently?
	How will decisions be communicated to people who are affected in a clear way, with the opportunity for feedback?

Part 1: Identification

Name of person completing the FEIA	Alastair Dearling
Role of person completing the FEIA	Licensing Manager
Date of completion	15/09/2022
Head of Service who has approved this FEIA	Silver Gonzalez-Lopez

1. What is being assessed? *(Please double click on the relevant box(es) (X) and select 'checked' as appropriate)*

- New or revised policies, practices or procedures (which modify service delivery or employment practices)
- Service review or re-organisation proposals which affect the community and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- Decisions affecting service users, employees or the wider community including (de)commissioning or revising services
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or access to the built environment
- Public events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

Other please explain in the box below:

Though this is not a policy or Change of practice or procedures, clearly increasing the maximum fares for Hackney Carriages vehicles may affect those who rely on such a service, specifically those members of the public who do not wish to pre book a journey via Private Hire Operator.

Hackney Carriage vehicles only make up 7% of Newport's "taxi" fleet with 93% of vehicles being Private Hire vehicles. The Authority can only legally regulate maximum Hackney Carriage Fares and not Private Hire vehicle fares that are set by the Private Hire Operator.

2. Please describe the overall aims, objectives and intended outcomes of your decision

Revision of Hackney Carriage (Taxi) & Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers & Operators Policy

The Department of Transport (DfT) and Welsh Government agree there is a need for common core of minimum standards for the taxi and private hire Vehicle sector in order to improve public safety and standardisation. The Licensing Authority is required to review its current requirements in line With statutory Government Guidance standards and also Welsh Government's recommended harmonisation "Taxi" guidance.

Although it still remains the case that licensing authorities must reach their own decisions, both on overall policies and on individual licensing matters in light of the relevant law, it may be that the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards might be drawn upon in any legal challenge to an authority's practice, and that any failure to adhere to the standards without sufficient justification could be detrimental to the authority's defence.

3. Who are the main stakeholders who may be impacted by your decision and what data do you hold on them? Consider communities of place (people who live in the same geographic area) and communities of interest (people who share particular characteristics but may live in different geographic areas). Stakeholders may include residents, local businesses, community groups, staff or partners.

- Hackney Carriage / Private hire Drivers
- Hackney Carriage / Private hire Proprietors
- Private Hire Operator
- Members of the Public who use Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Private Hire Vehicles
- Newport Passenger Transport team, Gwent Police, Newport Highways Department.
- A Month consultation will take place in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Part 2: Engagement

When completing this section, you need to consider whether you have sufficient information about the views and experiences of people who your decision will impact upon. If you don't, you may need to undertake a period of engagement/consultation before continuing. An FEIA is a live document, so can be updated with consultation findings, and amended as needed during the decision-making process.

The council has a duty to consult and engage with people who may experience inequalities as a result of your decision. This includes people **who share Protected Characteristics** (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and people who **have lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage**. The council's Youth Promise also requires us to ensure **all young people in Newport are listened to and included in decisions affecting them**.

The council also has a duty to ensure that any consultation is available bilingually (in Welsh as well as English), and you may like to consider any other community languages that are spoken by people who may be impacted by your decision. Below are some questions that should be included in any public consultation relating to a decision which may impact on the use of Welsh language in Newport:

1. Do you believe that the proposed decision/policy will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?
2. If you think it will have a negative effect, what steps could we take to lessen or remove this and improve positive effects?
3. Do you believe that the proposed decision/policy will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

1. How have you engaged with people who may be affected by your decision (the stakeholders you have identified)?

During the consultation period the Licensing Authority will meet formally with the Licence trade to not only explain the proposed draft policy but also seek their views. Though as highlighted within the Cabinet members report trade consultation has already been taken place by Westminster and Welsh Government, as such much of trade will be aware of proposed changes

Clearly the purpose of the Cabinet Member Report is to seek approval to go out for full consultation with all members of the "taxi" trade and members of the public and relevant authorities.

2. What do you know about the views or experiences of people who may be affected by your decision?

Clearly the purpose of the report is to go out for formal consultation to gain those views.

Part 3: Assessment

This section requires you to assess the potential impact of your decision on a range of groups who may experience specific disadvantages. Your assessment should be supported by evidence – either from your own engagement/consultation, similar or previous engagement, what you already know about the people who access your service, or from local and national sources of information.

Useful documents which set out information about how communities are impacted by inequalities include [EHRC – Is Wales Fairer?](#) and the council's [COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment](#). Your decision may have both positive and negative impacts – if this is the case, please place a cross in both boxes.

1. Impact on people that share Protected Characteristics

[Protected Characteristics](#) are defined under the Equality Act 2010, and describe groups of people who are protected from discrimination, either in the workplace, or through the provision of goods and services. The council must consider how decisions may impact on people differently because of a protected characteristic, and how any negative impact could be reduced. National guidance on assessing equality impacts and the Public Sector Equality Duty can be found [here](#). You can also access further advice and examples of positive and negative impacts [here](#).

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote equal opportunity across different groups 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that this proposal will affect persons who share this protected characteristic.
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The taxi policy will retain its requirements for drivers to support people with disabilities when transport is required, but drivers will receive more frequent training including disability training. The Policy regarding Hackney Carriage being wheelchair accessible remain.</i>
Gender Reassignment/ Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote equal opportunity across different groups 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.</i>
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	'There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.

2. Impact on Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure specifies that for all policy decisions, the council must consider the effects (both positive and negative) on the Welsh language. For further guidance on Welsh language considerations see [here](#).




	Impact:			
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is no evidence that this proposal will impact on persons who share this protected characteristic. All statutory public notices, consultation will be published bilingually.</i>



1. Please describe how you have ensured your engagement has considered the view of Welsh speakers in Newport.

The Consolation will be both in Welsh and English.

3. The Sustainable Development Principle

The Well-being of Future Generations Act puts in place a sustainable development principle which helps organisations consider the impact they could have on people living in Wales in the future, and ensure they are focused on tackling long-term challenges. Below, consider how your decision promotes, advances, or contradicts the [5 ways of working](#) which underpin the sustainable development principle. You can access further guidance on considering the sustainable development principle [here](#).

<p>Long term</p> 	<p><i>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</i></p>	<p>The Taxi Policy will ensure Newport City Council has clear guidelines for taxi firms to consider the long term impact on their business. The policy is required to be reviewed regularly, the DfT standards advocate that any taxi licensing policy is reviewed every 5 years but also consider interim reviews, if there are significant issues arising in the area before that time.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p><i>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</i></p>	<p>There is an emphasis on prevention as the policy and licensing process ensures that a number of checks and safeguards are in place before a licence is granted. It places notification requirements on individuals to report matters affecting their suitability during the currency of a licence.</p> <p>Newport City Council will continue to support, listen and work with the interested parties, travelling public and Taxi trade</p>
<p>Integration</p> 	<p><i>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</i></p>	<p>To provide consistency for bodies and individuals who work within the Hackney Carriage trade.</p>

<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p><i>Working together to deliver objectives.</i></p>	<p>The harmonized measures proposed in the Welsh Government guidance will ensure that there is a consistency across local authorities in Wales in relation to how licensing authorities will approach the licensing of drivers, vehicle proprietors and private hire vehicle operators. Furthermore the adoption of the measures advocated by the Department of Transport's Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards dated July 2020 will be national reaching across the whole of the UK.</p>
<p>Involvement</p> 	<p><i>Involving those with an interest and seeking their view - ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area.</i></p>	<p>As above via Discussions, Engagement sessions and consultation.</p>

4. Socio-economic Duty

The [Socio-economic Duty](#) is set out in the Equality Act 2010, and requires the council, when making strategic decisions, to pay due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome that result from socio-economic disadvantage. Inequalities of outcome are felt most acutely in areas such as health, education, work, living standards, justice and personal security, and participation.

A 'strategic decision' is defined by Welsh Government as a decision **which affects how the council fulfils its statutory purpose over a significant period of time and does not include routine 'day to day' decisions.** Strategic decisions include:

- Corporate plans
- Setting wellbeing, equality and other strategic objectives
- Changes to, or development of public services
- Strategic financial planning
- Strategic policy development

If you do not think your decision meets this definition, and you do not plan on carrying out a Socio-economic Duty Assessment in this section, please provide your rationale below. Any decision which is presented to a Cabinet Member, at Cabinet or Council will be viewed as a strategic decision.

There is no evidence that shows that this proposal will have a negative impact upon a specific geographical area of Newport.

If your decision does meet the definition, please consider the impact of your decision on the socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and areas of inequality that may arise from socio-economic disadvantage contained in the matrix below. The groups listed are not exhaustive and you should consider any additional groups relevant to your decision who may experience socio-economic disadvantage in the following ways:

- **Low Income/Income Poverty** - cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.
- **Low and/or no Wealth** - enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future
- **Material Deprivation** - unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.)
- **Area Deprivation** - where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport)

- Socio-economic Background – for example, parents’ education, employment and income

Indicate a positive or negative impact, or both where they apply, and the severity of this impact by coding the sections of the grid based on the below. *If there is no/neutral impact, please leave blank.*

Negative Impact		Positive Impact	
N1	Negative impact – mild	P1	Positive impact – mild
N2	Negative impact – moderate	P2	Positive impact – moderate
N3	Negative impact – significant	P3	Positive impact – significant
N4	Potential for negative impact (but unsure)	P4	Potential for positive impact (but unsure)

Areas of inequality that may arise from socio-economic disadvantage – definitions							
Education :The capability to be knowledgeable, to understand and reason, and to have the skills and opportunity to participate in the labour market and in society							
Work : The capability to work in just and favourable conditions, to have the value of your work recognised, even if unpaid, to not be prevented from working and to be free from slavery, forced labour and other forms of exploitation							
Living Standards : The capability to enjoy a comfortable standard of living, in appropriate housing, with independence and security, and to be cared for and supported when necessary.							
Justice, Personal Security and Community Safety : The capability to avoid premature mortality, live in security, and knowing you will be protected and treated fairly by the law							
Health : The capability to be healthy, physically and mentally, being free in matters of sexual relationships and reproduction, and having autonomy over care and treatment and being cared for in the final stages of your life							
Participation : The capability to participate in decision making and in communities, access services, know your privacy will be respected, and express yourself							
Areas of inequality							
Groups	Living Standards	Work	Health	Education	Justice and community safety	Participation	Physical Environment
Children living in poverty							
Low income households without dependent children							
Unemployed young people							
Long term unemployed							
Homeless households							
Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers							

Deprived neighbourhoods - WIMD rank in 10% most deprived LSOA							
People on Universal Credit / income related benefits							
Adults with no qualifications or low qualifications							
People living in low quality housing or in Houses of Multiple Occupation							

1. What evidence do you have about socioeconomic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this decision?

Please expand on the information provided in the matrix, giving reasons for your assessment of both positive and negative impacts. You may like to consider your experience of current service delivery, recent engagement or consultation or any national/local research relevant to your policy decision.

For any positive impacts, please indicate the [Wellbeing Goal](#) and/or [Wellbeing Objective](#) that this contributes to as set out in the previous section.

2. Please describe how you have ensured your engagement has considered the views of people living in Newport who are affected by socio-economic disadvantage.

3. Does this decision contribute to a cumulative impact?

Part 3: Actions and Outcomes

Considering any negative impacts that you have identified, indicate below how you will reduce these, and how you will monitor potential impact. Further guidance on how to complete your action plan can be found [here](#).

IMPACT ON PEOPLE THAT SHARE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
IMPACT ON WELSH LANGUAGE			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLE			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner

Once your FEIA is complete, please forward to ncequality@newport.gov.uk