

LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

Agenda Item 20

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Equalities Action Plan Update Report		
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2011		
Report of:	Head of Planning and Public Protection		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Jean Cranford	Tel: 29-2550
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To report on the progress of the Equalities Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Committee note the report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 On 10 September 2010, a report on the Equalities Review was taken to Licensing Committee. An action plan was developed from that report.

3.2 The action plan has been developed and updated and the current version can be found at appendix 1.

3.3 On 13 October 2011, a document was published "Transport Committee - Eighth Special Report. Here is a link:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmtran/1507/150702.htm>

The Law Commission confirmed at a meeting on 12 October 2011 that they will publish a consultation paper in April 2012 with a 3 month public consultation May - July. The Draft Bill and report will be published in November 2013.

The Transport Minister confirmed that the Government were not going to implement section 160 of the Equality Act (taxi accessibility regulations). They are still looking at an implementation strategy for S165-167. The cost benefit of the power to limit hackney carriage numbers is still under consideration. This may impact on imposing prescribed percentages of accessible vehicles.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 This matter has been discussed at the Taxi Forum.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the council associated with the recommendations made in this report. Taxi licensing fees are set at a level that it is reasonably expected will cover the costs of providing the service.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 26/10/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Equalities Action Plan will assist in discharging the Council's duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Lawyer Consulted: Rebecca Sidell Date: 04/11/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Recommendations are designed to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote participation in public life and meet the needs of disabled people. Improving access to taxis/Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) is a priority action in the council's Equality Scheme. Improving access to services by public transport is included in the Local Area Agreement.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The role of the taxi trade is included in the Local Transport Plan, which identifies it as a key element in providing sustainable transport choices. It creates important links in the transport network to other forms of sustainable transport providing a seamless connection. Improving accessibility is one of the government's four shared transport priorities. Increasing the age limits of taxis will adversely affect air quality.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Sufficient late night transport to reduce public place violent crime is recognised in the community safety, crime reduction and drugs strategy. The presence of CCTV can be an important means of deterring and detecting crime.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The transport industry should be safe, profitable and be a positive experience for all residents and visitors

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Providing a range of transport options for all passengers improves physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 Tourism needs to provide a warm welcome to visitors and the tourism strategy depends upon effective partnership with transport operators particularly to achieve safe late night dispersal for the night time economy.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 N/A

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To update Licensing Committee.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Equality Act Action Plan Update.
- 2.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. None.