

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2024

REPORT ON: PROPOSALS TO REVISE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE TAXICARD SCHEME

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 250-2014

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report sets out proposals to make a minor change to the eligibility criteria of the Taxicard Scheme.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves a change to the eligibility criteria that will allow Blue Badge holders to become members of the Taxicard Scheme.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Since April 2009, the agreed policy of Dundee City Council has been that current holders of Blue Badges are not allowed to join the Taxicard Membership Scheme. In practice, that rule has proved difficult to administer because of the different eligibility requirements of the 2 schemes. The Blue Badge Scheme is a national scheme that is administered by the Council's Social Work Department and complies with nationally agreed eligibility criteria. The Taxicard Scheme is a local concession scheme with eligibility criteria set by Dundee City Council and administered by the City Development Department.

4.2 An anomaly of current practice is that while applicants for a Taxicard are refused membership of the Taxicard scheme if they hold a Blue Badge, Blue Badge applicants are not asked whether they are Taxicard scheme members. This results in Blue Badges being returned to the Council, so that Taxicard membership can be obtained by the applicant. There is also evidence that some Taxicard holders then re-apply to join the Blue Badge scheme at a later date.

4.3 This report seeks authority for officers to amend the eligibility rules of the scheme and allow Blue Badge Scheme members to join the Taxicard Scheme with immediate effect without the need to surrender their Blue Badge.

4.4 City Development will continue to monitor the number of applications received. Any subsequent increase in demand for the Taxicard Scheme is expected to be contained within the current Taxicard budget.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

5.2 This change in policy will help achieve high level SOA Outcomes: 4 - Our people will experience fewer health inequalities and 10 - Our communities will have high quality and accessible local services and facilities.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Mike Galloway
Director of City Development

Neil Gellatly
Head of Transportation

NHG/JB/KM

12 June 2014

Dundee City Council
Dundee House
Dundee

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment ToolPart 1 Description/Consultation

Is this a Rapid Equality Impact Assessment (RIAT) ?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO Please circle
Is this a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO Please circle
Date of assessment 10 June 2014	Title of document being assessed: Proposals to Revise Eligibility Criteria of the Taxicard Scheme	
Committee report number 2014 - 250		
1) This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed (If yes please tick box) <input type="checkbox"/>	This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed? (If yes please tick box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2) Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.	Procedure for allowing new members to join the Council's Taxicard Scheme.	
3) What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?	To enable Blue Badge holders to obtain membership of the Taxicard Scheme without having to surrender their Blue Badge.	
4) Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.	None.	
5) Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.	No.	
6) Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment. (E.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc)	John Berry.	
7) Is there a need to collect further evidence or	No.	

to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy?

(Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)

Part 2 Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with a disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 3 Impacts / Monitoring

<p>1) Have any positive impacts been identified? (We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)</p>	<p>Disabled people will be able to join the Taxicard Scheme and increase their general mobility.</p>
<p>2) Have any negative impacts been identified? (Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3) What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts? E.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. see Good Practice on DCC equalities web page</p>	<p>Please give further details</p>
<p>4) Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome? (If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)</p>	<p>If yes please give further details</p>
<p>5) Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended? (If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required) Seek advice from your departmental Equality lead.</p>	<p>No</p>

6) How will the policy be monitored? (How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.	The Sustainable Transport Team will monitor the number of new applications to the scheme to determine whether the change increases the number of new members.
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Part 4 Contact information

Name of Department or Partnership: City Development

Type of Document

Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact Information

Manager Responsible		Author Responsible	
Name	John Berry	Name	John Berry
Designation	Sustainable Transport Team Leader	Designation	Sustainable Transport Team Leader
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Email	john.berry@dundeecity.gov.uk	Email	john.berry@dundeecity.gov.uk

Signature of author of the policy

Date

Signature of Head of Service area:

Date

Name of Head of Service: Neil Gellatly

Date of next policy review: April 2015