



Revocation/Variation of the Taxi Ranks on the High Street, Old Town,  
Stevenage

# Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Form

February 2026

<b>Date created</b>	February 2026
<b>Approved by</b>	Cabinet/SLT
<b>Owner</b>	Julie Dwan – Licensing Manager
<b>Version</b>	1.0
<b>Author</b>	Julie Dwan
<b>Business Unit and Team</b>	Planning & Regulation (Environmental Health & Licensing)

Please [click this link](#) to find the EqIA guidance toolkit for support in completing the following form.

For translations, braille or large print versions of this document please email  
[equalities@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@stevenage.gov.uk).

**First things first:**

**Does this policy, project, service, or other decision need an EqlA?**

<b>Title:</b>	Revocation/Variation of the Taxi Ranks, High Street, Old Town, Stevenage	
<b>Please answer Yes or No to the following questions:</b>		
Does it affect staff, service users or the wider community?		Yes
Has it been identified as being important to particular groups of people?		No
Does it or could it potentially affect different groups of people differently (unequal)?		No
Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities or exclusion issues?		No
Will it have an impact on how other organisations operate?		No
Is there potential for it to cause controversy or affect the council's reputation as a public service provider?		Yes

<b>Where a positive impact is likely, will this help to:</b>	
Remove discrimination and harassment?	No
Promote equal opportunities?	No
Encourage good relations?	No

**If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of the above questions you should carry out an EqlA.**

Or if you answered 'No' to all of the questions and decide that your activity doesn't need an EqlA you must explain below why it has no relevance to equality and diversity.

You should reference the information you used to support your decision below and seek approval from your Assistant Director before confirming this by sending this page to [equalities@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@stevenage.gov.uk).

N/A
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I determine that no EqlA is needed to inform the decision on the Revocation of the Taxi Rank in Danestrete, Stevenage.

Name of assessor:

Decision approved by:

Role:

Date:

Role:

Date:

# Equality Impact Assessment Form

For a policy, project, strategy, staff or service change, or other decision that is new, changing or under review

<b>What is being assessed?</b>		Revocation (Removal) and relocation (Adoption) of the Taxi Rank – Lister Hospital, Coreys Mill Lane, Stevenage			
Lead Assessor	Julie Dwan		Assessment team		
Start date	February 2026	End date			
When will the EqIA be reviewed? (Typically, every 2 years)					

<b>Who may be affected by the proposed project?</b>	Taxi drivers, members of the public
<b>What are the key aims of the proposed project?</b>	<p>The proposal seeks to revoke the existing taxi rank located on the southbound side of the High Street, Stevenage, and the variation of the existing rank on the northbound side of the High Street, increasing its length from 35 metres to 54 metres. The proposal also includes a variation to the taxi rank operating hours, with the new times being 18.30 to 04.00 (currently 21.00 to 0400) It is proposed that during the daytime, the rank on the northbound side of the High Street will be made available for general parking when not in use by taxis. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is carrying out works on the High Street to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility. The removal and variation of the existing taxi rank are necessary to enable the implementation of two new zebra crossings nearby and to support wider, holistic improvements to the High Street.</p> <p>The reconfiguration aims to provide more appropriate crossing locations outside the Red Lion and The Mulberry Tree Public House, which would require the removal of the existing zebra crossing outside Austin's Funeral Directors.</p>

	<p>The reconfiguration aims to support and encourage more sustainable modes of transport, including walking, wheeling, and cycling and the use of public transport, by making it safer and easier to get around Stevenage.</p>
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What <b>positive measures</b> are in place (if any) to help <b>fulfil our legislative duties</b> to:					
Remove discrimination & harassment	N/A	Promote equal opportunities	N/A	Encourage good relations	<p>The existing northbound and southbound taxi ranks are each 35 metres in length accommodating approximately 6 vehicles per rank. Whilst it is proposed that the southbound rank is revoked. The remaining taxi rank on the northbound side of the High Street which is currently 35 metres in</p>

					<p>length and can accommodate 6 vehicles will be extended to 54 metres providing capacity for 9 vehicles. Though this is a reduction of 3 vehicles compared to the current arrangement. The remaining rank is to be located close to the main night-time economy premises and will be supported by additional zebra crossings to maintain safe and accessible pedestrian movement. The extension of the ranks operating hours will ensure improved taxi provision earlier in the evening supporting demand during early evening periods.</p>
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<p>What sources of data / information are you using to inform your assessment?</p>	<p>Taxi Unmet Demand Survey carried out in September 2023. Public Consultation responses, as a result of a 28-day consultation.</p>
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In assessing the potential impact on people, are there any overall comments that you would like to make?	The remaining rank on the northbound side of the High Street is in close proximity of the rank to the southbound side which is to be removed with a distance of approximately 100m. The revised arrangement is expected to enhance safety and accessibility along the High Street. HCC have confirmed that there will be no loss of taxi provision whilst the High Street works, and reconfiguration of the taxi ranks take place.
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## Evidence and Impact Assessment

Explain the potential impact and opportunities it could have for people in terms of the following characteristics, where applicable:

Age					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				

What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?		What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)	
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Disability e.g., physical impairment, mental ill health, learning difficulties, long-standing illness					
Positive impact	X	Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	The remaining taxi rank on the northbound side of the High Street is located within a short walking distance of the rank proposed for removal and will be supported by safe pedestrian crossing facilities. The proposal is not anticipated to have a disproportionate adverse impact on people with protected characteristics, including disabled users, older people, or those with mobility impairments. Alternative pick-up and drop-off arrangements will continue to be available along the High Street, including accessible parking bays and designated drop-off points. The proposal is considered to support continued accessibility within the High Street.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?			What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)		

Gender Reassignment					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	

Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.		
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?		What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)	

<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b>					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?		What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)			

<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?		What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)			

Race					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?			What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)		

Religion or Belief					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?			What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)		

Sex					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	

Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.		
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?		What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)	

<b>Sexual Orientation e.g., straight, lesbian / gay, bisexual</b>					
Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?		What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)			

**Socio-economic<sup>1</sup>**  
e.g., low income, unemployed, homelessness, caring responsibilities, access to internet, public transport users, social value in procurement

<sup>1</sup>Although non-statutory, the council has chosen to implement the Socio-Economic Duty and so decision-makers should use their discretion to consider the impact on people with a socio-economic disadvantage.

Positive impact		Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	N/A Impact not expected.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?			What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)		

<b>Additional Considerations</b>					
<b>Please outline any other potential impact on people in any other contexts</b>					
Positive impact	X	Negative impact		Unequal impact	
Please evidence the data and information you used to support this assessment	The proposal is anticipated to have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics, particularly older people, disabled users, and those with mobility impairments, by improving access to safe and convenient taxi provision earlier in the evening. The extended hours will support greater accessibility along the High Street, including for those who may find walking longer distances difficult or who rely on taxis as their primary mode of transport. No adverse impacts have been identified as a result of the proposed change.				
What opportunities are there to promote equality and inclusion?			What do you still need to find out? Include in actions (last page)	N/A	

## Consultation Findings

Document any feedback gained from the following groups of people:

Staff?	Public Consultation – No responses received	Residents?	Public consultation – No responses received
Voluntary & community sector?	Public consultation -No responses received	Partners?	Police Consulted – The Police responded to confirm that the proposal has been noted and

			that there are no observations or comments from Stevenage Police.
Other stakeholders?	Licensed Taxi/Private Hire Trade consulted – no responses received		

## Overall Conclusion & Future Activity

Explain the <b>overall findings</b> of the assessment and <b>reasons for outcome (please choose one)</b> :		
1. No inequality, inclusion issues or opportunities to further improve have been identified	No responses/objections were received as a result of the 28-day consultation period which ran between 26 <sup>th</sup> January and 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026; therefore, I recommend to Cabinet that the taxi rank on the southbound side of the High Street be revoked and the remaining taxi rank on the northbound side of the High Street be extended. Furthermore, I recommend that Cabinet approve the extension of the operating hours of the taxi rank with the new times being from 18:30 to 04:00 (currently 21:00 to 04:00).	
Negative / unequal impact, barriers to inclusion or improvement opportunities identified	2a. Adjustments made	
	2b. Continue as planned	
	2c. Stop and remove	

**Detail the actions that are needed as a result of this assessment and how they will help to remove discrimination & harassment, promote equal opportunities and / or encourage good relations:**

Action	Will this help to remove, promote and / or encourage?	Responsible officer	Deadline	How will this be embedded as business as usual?
Taxi Unmet Demand survey to be carried out every three years	To assess the demand surrounding each taxi rank and to determine whether there is a need for additional licensed taxis (hackney carriages) to promote equal opportunities.	Julie Dwan	August 2026	

**Approved by Assistant Director:**

**Date:**

Please send this EqIA to [equalities@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@stevenage.gov.uk) for critical friend feedback and for final submittance with the associated project.