

Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Tom Baker-Price, Member for Headless Cross and Oakenshaw	Date of referral	16/02/16
Proposed topic title	Improving Disabled People's Access to Redditch's Taxi Fleet Short, Sharp Review		
Link to national, regional and local priorities and targets	<p><u>Local</u> Help me live my life independently</p> <p><u>National</u> Ensuring that disabled people are able to access the same services as everyone else with reasonable adjustments is a priority of parliament/the nation as demonstrated by the Human Rights Act 1999 and the Equality Act 2010.</p>		
Background to the issue	<p>On Monday 18th January Councillor A Clayton informed the Taxi Licensing Forum of the experiences of a disabled woman from Matchborough who went shopping and became stranded at the shops as she hadn't given any taxi firm 48 hours' notice (Redditch Standard, 22/1/16, p3). Disability Action Redditch (DAR) also report that disabled people have been charged 3 times more than a non-disabled person for the same journey and that several taxi firms refuse to take bookings for passengers who are wheelchair users. Although charging more for a disabled person is discriminatory it is common practise according to Scope and DAR.</p> <p>In 2013 an Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on "Access for disabled people" recommended that the age of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) should be increased to elevate this problem. However according to Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) this has not led to a significant increase in WAV which, with a rising population with physical disabilities, is only compounding the problem. WRS Officers have suggested that "there are various options that are worthy of consideration and lessons that can be learned from experiences in other areas" creating a need to review this policy area.</p>		

<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<p>The review will review disabled access to the taxi fleet and propose relevant solutions. Specifically, it will review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ways to prevent overcharging. 2) How to increase the number of WAV. 3) How best to reduce the waiting time for WAV. <p>The measure of success will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) DAR and disabled residents reporting they are being charged the same price as non-disabled people. 2) An increased number of WAV. 3) Disabled people able to get a WAV in less than 2 hours. <p>Licensing officers have suggested that policy options and considering other authorities' experiences will enable the group to achieve the purposes of this review.</p> <p>This review is relevant to the Council's strategic purpose of 'Living my life independently and the Council is the taxi licensing authority for Redditch.</p>
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>If this review can be launched this evening as a Short, Sharp Review I would suggest that it should be completed before the local elections in May, with a final completion date of 12th April 2016.</p>

Please return this form to: Jess Bayley or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
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