**SAVINGS OPTION 2015/16 to 2017/18**

**DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / SERVICE AREA:**
Chief Executive / Finance / Customer Services, Contracts & Business Improvement

**DESCRIPTION OF SAVING:**
Taxicard Scheme: Restricting eligibility to Taxicard services, so enabling the budget to be proportionally reduced from £358,872 to around £198,000.

**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE:**
Taxicard is a scheme that provides subsidised door-to-door transport for people who have mobility impairments and difficulty in using public transport.
The operational, day-to-day, delivery of the service is within Elevate, while the strategy and budget is managed by the Council.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SERVICE:**
The current Taxicard scheme in Barking and Dagenham consists of three categories / bands of eligibility:

**BAND A (1266 users)**
Trip entitlement: 104 = 52 return trips

Band A is for people who without a taxicard would not be able to travel independently at all. In order to be eligible for a Taxicard under Band A, Applicants must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Have a permanent and substantial physical or sensory disability **OR** a chronic condition that imposes serious mobility problems to the degree that they:
  - Are virtually housebound
  - Are unable to use any form of Public Transport
  - Need door to door transport
  - Are unable to drive a car
  - Not be in possession of a Freedom Pass or Blue Badge as a driver.

**BAND B (232 users)**
Trip entitlement: 60 = 30 return trips

Band B is for people who are generally unable to travel independently, but on occasions may be able to drive their own car. In order to be eligible for a Taxicard under Band B, applicants must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

Have a permanent and substantial physical or sensory disability **OR** a chronic condition that imposes serious
mobility problems to the degree that they:
♦ Are virtually housebound for most of the time
♦ Are unable to use any form of Public Transport
♦ Able to drive a car on occasions
♦ Not be in possession of a Freedom Pass
♦ May hold a Blue Badge as a driver or passenger

**BAND C (1766 users)**
Trip entitlement: 18 = 36 return trips

Band C is for people who have a physical or sensory disability **OR** illness, but who are able to use Public Transport. In order to be eligible for a Taxicard under Band C, Applicants must meet the following criteria:
♦ Have a physical or sensory disability **OR** a chronic illness, which means that they are on occasions unable to use Public Transport or drive their own car.
♦ Able to use Public Transport with assistance **OR**
♦ Be able to drive

This proposal is to reduce the Taxicard budget by restricting eligibility. This would reduce the number of those eligible by around 60%.

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### 2 Version control / history of amendments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doc. Name</th>
<th>Taxicard Scheme</th>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>J Bunt</td>
<td>Sign Off For Select Committee</td>
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### 3 Final approvals required for this document

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Bunt</td>
<td>Divisional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Tomlinson</td>
<td>Finance Group Manager</td>
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<td>Jonathan Bunt</td>
<td>Corporate Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr Cameron Geddes</td>
<td>Portfolio Holder</td>
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4  Budget changes proposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In-Year Budget Change</th>
<th>Cumulative Total Savings</th>
<th>Detailed Breakdown of Savings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£ 000's</td>
<td>£ 000's</td>
<td>Employees £000's</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>160K</td>
<td>160K</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>0</td>
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* Indicate source as applicable: GF (Revenue) / DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) / HRA (Housing Revenue Account) / CAP (Capital)

If your proposal will affect more than one source of funding, please give details below:

Not Applicable

5  What savings will be achieved?

Staff related savings
- Current number of posts - N/A
- Number of posts to be deleted - N/A
- Grades of posts to be deleted - N/A
- % reduction of staff in service area - N/A
- Amount of salary saving - N/A

Non-staff related savings
- Utilities – including heating/lighting - N/A
- Supplies and services – N/A
- Buildings and premises - N/A
- Transport - £160k

Third party payments/income
- Commissioning/contracts - N/A
- Charges to the HRA/DSG - N/A
- Increase fees & charges – N/A
- Grants/additional funding streams – N/A

6  What is timeframe for achieving these savings?

The saving would be taken from the 2015/16 budget from 1 April
7 Impact of savings

Achieving Council priorities and performance targets/standards
- By restricting Taxicard eligibility, so that we have only a Band A and B category we would expect complaints and objections from residents and third sector organisations.
- As part of this process we would only be able to deliver savings by concentrating eligibility on those residents most in need.

Customers and service users
- Taxicard is a discretionary service. We would remove a Band of eligibility (Band C) which would have the effect of no longer offering a Taxicard service to around half of the 4,400 current users.
- Band C users are those who currently:
  - ♦ Have a physical or sensory disability OR a chronic illness, which means that they are on occasions unable to use Public Transport or drive their own car.
  - ♦ Able to use Public Transport with assistance OR
  - ♦ Be able to drive

Most boroughs have only two bands.

Strategic and support services
Outline any back office and support service impacts from the implementation of this saving, include (if applicable):
- Legal/assurance/risk – N/A
- ICT – N/A
- Assets/buildings – N/A
- HR – N/A
- Finance – N/A
- Policy and communications – We would need to publicise the change
- Elevate – We would need to write to all users advising them of the change. We would possibly need to re-register current / new users.

Equalities and diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Yes/No</th>
<th>Protected Equality Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Men, Women &amp; Transgender People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>People from Black &amp; Minority Ethnic Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Disabled People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Old &amp; Young People</td>
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<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay &amp; Bisexual people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>People with different Religions &amp; beliefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Pregnant Women &amp; New Mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>People who are socio-economically disadvantaged</td>
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### Partners
- There are no expected impacts on our partners or stakeholders.

### 8 Risk assessment
- We may have to re-register all current users in order to deliver the removal of Band C. It is possible that some Band C users may now qualify for Bands A or B; should this be the case it could mean that we will not have enough remaining budget to continue to deliver the scheme without requiring additional funds.

### 9 Other costs
- **Redundancy costs** – N/A
- **Transfer costs to other departments / third parties** – N/A
- **Gainshare payments** – N/A
- **Set Up costs** – Yes, re notifying members, which is able to be absorbed within existing budgets.
- **Disposal/closure costs** – N/A

### 10 Miscellaneous comments to support savings proposals
Our taxicard budget is the second largest of all 33 boroughs, at least 4 boroughs currently devote no funds to the scheme.