

LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

Agenda Item 27

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Emissions and Age Policy		
Date of Meeting:	01 March 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name: <i>Martin Seymour</i>	Tel: 29-6659	
	E-mail: martin.seymour@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Following a deputation from Councillor Dean at the June Licensing Committee regarding accelerating air quality initiatives, in particular, to tackle the damaging effects of diesel engine emissions, members requested a report responding to the issues raised and providing a further update be provided to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Committee agree the age limits for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles should be amended as follows from the 1st April 2018:-
- a) In the case of a first application for a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence, petrol vehicles must meet the Euro 4 Emission Standard and not normally exceed 10 years of age from date of initial DVLA registration and not more than 10 years of age in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence. Diesel vehicles must meet the Euro 6 Emission Standard and not normally exceed 10 years of age from date of initial DVLA registration and not more than 10 years of age in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence and not to be left-hand drive.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Council has an Air Quality Action Plan which details a number of initiatives for improving air quality. We do not have a current taxi licensing emissions policy. However, we are looking at different initiatives including electric taxis, and some of the taxi fleet (to date 21 minibuses or saloons) have had exhaust adaptations to

reduce oxides of nitrogen emissions and this was facilitated using the Department of transport Clean Vehicle Transport Fund. We also have an age policy for new and replacement vehicles (see 3.4 & 3.5 below).

- 3.2 The take up of fully electric vehicles has been disappointing with only 1 fully electric vehicle currently licenced. The proprietor of the vehicle reports that he and his passengers are very satisfied with the vehicle. There is no exhaust maintenance on the vehicle and brake wear is reduced substantially. However, he has found that there is a lack of available working charging points and some points abused by users parking rather than charging vehicles. On line updates available on working charging points.
- 3.3 At the committee meeting of June 2018, members requested that Officers investigated bringing in emission standards for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. 3.4 The current age limits for Brighton & Hove Hackney Carriages are:-
 - a) In the case of a first application for a hackney carriage vehicle licence the vehicle must not normally exceed 7 years of age from date of initial DVLA registration and not more than 10 years of age in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence or no more than 13 years for petrol, petrol hybrid or electric vehicles with an initial registration of 2009 onwards and not to be left-hand drive.
- 3.5 The current age limits for Brighton & Hove Private Hire Vehicles are:-
 - a) In the case of a first application for a vehicle licence it must be under 10 years since date of first registration, not more than 10 years in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence or no more than 13 years for petrol, petrol hybrid or electric vehicles with an initial registration of 2009 onwards and not to be left-hand drive. In the case of a first application for a wheelchair accessible vehicle that is M1 ECWVTA under 12 years since date of first registration and not more than 12 years in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence.
- 3.6 The latest Euro emissions standard (6) was introduced on all new registrations from 1 September 2015 although some vehicles registered before this date may meet this standard. Euro emissions standard (4) was introduced to all new registrations from 1 January 2006.
- 3.7 On the 06 March 2014 Committee noted the proposed implementation of a Low Emission Zone in central Brighton as approved by Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee on 14 January 2014 as part of a range of measures to reduce vehicle emissions in Brighton and Hove and ongoing work to be undertaken with Planning to implement some of the recommendations. [Committee Report 06 March 2014](#)
- 3.8 On 14 January 2014, the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee discussed proposals that included measures for lowering NOx, fine particulate and carbon dioxide emissions from Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. The Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee resolved to declare a Low

Emission Zone in Castle Square, North Street and Western Road as far as the junction with Holland Road, with the aim of ensuring that all Public Service Vehicles to meet, as a minimum the Euro 5 emissions standard by 1 January 2015, with only licensed exemptions. Officers consulted with bus operators, DEFRA and the Department for Transport with a view to making an application to the Traffic Commissioner for a Traffic 109 Regulation Condition to establish the regulatory framework for the Low Emission Zone. [Committee Report 14 January 2014](#)

3.9 We continue to work closely with the Council Air Quality Officer, transport and the trade to encourage the use of ultralow emission technology including hybrid and electric vehicles and to provide the necessary infrastructure such as charging points. Hybrid can be plug in hybrid or electric-engine synergy. For Brighton & Hove City Council's the Air Quality Management Area (last updated in 2013) the council's priority is a reduction in NOx emissions especially from the highest mileage most frequent vehicles and the avoidance of engine idling adjacent to residential dwellings. From 2018/19 a City Centre Clean Air Zone could include taxis and help attract public and private sector funding to assist with procurement of ultralow emission fleets and electric infrastructure.

3.10 As part of the consultation process with the trade several submissions were received from the trade and can found at appendix 1.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1. The proposals were discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultative Forum on the 20th December 2017 where there was agreement to support the proposals.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation made in this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley Date: 10th January 2018

Legal Implications:

5.2.

Lawyer Consulted: Date:

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 Contained in the body of the report.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 To make no changes to current policy

6.2 Make all newly registered vehicles electric

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. To reduce Vehicle emissions to assist with improving air quality within the brighton & Hove