

Licensed Vehicle Emissions Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure taxis are as safe, reliable and comfortable as possible while at the same time minimising emissions. The policy aims to have a positive impact on emissions as it is recognised that the age of vehicles and the exhaust emission specification are critical to the level of pollutants emitted. Consequently, to improve air quality and reduce emissions from the taxi fleet, standards relating to the exhaust emissions have been introduced in addition to the requirements regarding the age of vehicles.

Emissions Standards

At first application –

- Diesel vehicles must meet or exceed Euro 6 emissions standards from 01/04/2020
- Other vehicles must meet or exceed Euro 5 emissions standards from 01/04/2020
- Other vehicles must meet or exceed Euro 6 emissions standards from 01/04/2021

At renewal –

- From 01/04/2021 vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that does not meet or exceed Euro 5 emissions standards.
- From 01/04/2023 vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that does not meet or exceed Euro 6 emissions standards.

Where vehicles do not meet the relevant emissions criteria the proprietor may:

- have the vehicle adapted / modified to meet the standard and provide evidence of this
- change the fuel that is used to a cleaner alternative, such as bio diesel or
- replace the vehicle with one that meets the emission standard.

Notwithstanding that each application will be considered on its own merits.

When will the different criteria be applied?

If the licence of a currently licensed Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle is allowed to **EXPIRE** by its proprietor then any subsequent application will **NOT** be considered as a renewal. This means that where an existing vehicles licence expires, a subsequent application for a licence for that vehicle will be treated as a first time application and the standards and criteria relating to first time applications will be applied.

For the avoidance of doubt when a new vehicle has an existing plate transferred onto it the vehicle will be considered under the criteria for a vehicle being licensed for the first time.

Low Emission and Electric Vehicles

The Council encourages the uptake of low emission and electric vehicles in the District. The authority will seek to examine the feasibility of introducing schemes which help improve the charging network and aid drivers in testing and purchasing electric vehicles.