

Committee:	Licensing & Environmental Health	Date:
Title:	Review of Licensed Vehicle Emissions Policy	10 February 2021
Report Author:	Jamie Livermore, Senior Licensing & Compliance Officer, 01799 510326	Item for decision:
		Yes

Summary

1.1. Members will be aware that the Committee adopted the current Licensed Vehicle Emissions Policy - **attached as Background Paper A** - on 20 March 2020, which subsequently came into effect on 1 April 2020, and was last revised on 29 September 2020.

1.2. In brief, the Policy requires vehicles licensed by Uttlesford District Council to meet or exceed a prescribed European Emission standard. The prescribed standard differs depending on the type of fuel, whether the vehicle is wheelchair accessible (WAV's), and whether the vehicle is currently licensed by the Council or is being applied for as new.

1.3. From 1 April 2021, vehicles that are currently licensed by Uttlesford District Council will be required to conform to a minimum Euro Emission Level 5 upon their subsequent licence 'renewal' following that date, otherwise they will be refused.

Recommendations

2.1. Members are asked to consider whether the requirement referenced in 1.3 should be retained, amended or removed.

2.2. In considering whether to amend the requirement referenced in 1.3, Members may wish to consider revising other requirements of the Policy if and where deemed appropriate.

2.3. In considering whether to remove the requirement referenced in 1.3, Members should note that this would result in vehicles licensed by Uttlesford District Council being required to conform to Euro Emission Standard 6 upon their subsequent annual licence renewal from 1 April 2023.

Financial Implications

3.1. The financial effect to the taxi and private hire trade would be dependent on the decision the Committee wish to take.

3.2. An amendment or removal to the requirement referenced in 1.3 would in practice result in a lesser financial burden to members of the taxi and private hire trade who currently licence a vehicle classified below a Euro Emission Standard 5.

Background Papers

4.1. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

A. Licensed Vehicle Emissions Policy

Impact

5.1.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6.1. At the time of this Committee, vehicles that are currently licensed by Uttlesford District Council have not been affected by the Policy which first came into effect on 1 April 2020. That is with the exception of non-WAV's that were licensed for the first time since this date as they are now subject to a minimum Euro Emission Standard 5 or 6 Standard depending on the type of fuel.

6.2. As of 27 January 2021, approximately 101 out of the 2332 total vehicles currently licensed by Uttlesford District Council will not meet the required Euro Emission Standard and subsequently be refused their licence renewal between 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2022 when the existing expiry date is reached.

6.3. For the assistance of the Committee, the Euro Emission Standard 5 became mandatory for new passenger vehicles registered from January 2011.

6.4. The Licensing Team have been approached by several members of the taxi and private hire trade who have voiced concerns over the requirement referenced in 1.3 being implemented at a time where they

continue to be detrimentally affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

6.5. Officers believe it is therefore appropriate to ask the Committee to consider its policy taking into account the current circumstances.

Risk Analysis

7.1.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The policy could be judicially reviewed	Unlikely	1	The Committee must make fair and appropriate considerations that can be justified

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.