

To: General Purposes Licensing Committee
Date: 8th July 2019
Report of: Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety
Title of Report: Amendment to Emission Standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To recommend amendment to the emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed by this Authority
Corporate Priority	Vibrant Sustainable Economy, A Clean and Green Oxford
Policy Framework	Air Quality Action Plan, Low Emission Strategy, Sustainability Strategy
Recommendations: That the General Purposes Licensing Committee resolves to:	
1. Approve the recommended amendment to the approved emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed by this Authority;	
2. Agree that such proposals be recommended to Council for adoption.	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Current Emission Standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Introduction and background

1. On 23rd January 2019 this Committee approved the recommendations to introduce new emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV) licensed by this Authority in order to reduce emissions in the taxi fleet and to improve air quality in the City. The option recommended by this Committee has been adopted by the Council - **Appendix 1**.
2. Since the introduction of the new emission standards for HCV, members of the taxi trade, including the City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association (COLTA), have proposed that the transition from age limits to emissions based standards begins sooner than January 2020.
3. The overarching goals of the report approved in January were:
 - That the economic impact on the Hackney Carriage trade respects their livelihood and builds resilience to global trends in mobility
 - Achieving the urgent air quality improvement needed to meet Council targets for clean, safe air.

4. In light of supporting both of those goals the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety recommends approving the following amendments to the current emission standards for HCV's to support and accelerate the transition.

Recommended amendment of emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV) licensed by this Authority

5. Current emission standards policy:
 - A. From 1st January 2020 remove the current requirement for new Hackney Carriage Vehicle (HCV) applications where the maximum age for a new vehicle to obtain a licence is “less than five years of age”
 - B. From 1st January 2020 all renewal HCV applications must meet the EURO 4 standard as minimum; and, all new HCV applications must meet either the EURO 4, EURO 6 or ULEV standard as a minimum (EURO 5 vehicles are not considered to meet that standard);

To be amended to:

- A. With immediate effect remove the current requirement for new Hackney Carriage Vehicle (HCV) applications where the maximum age for a new vehicle to obtain a licence is “less than five years of age”
- B. From 1st January 2020 all renewal HCV applications must meet the EURO 4 standard as minimum; and, with immediate effect all new HCV applications must meet either the EURO 4, EURO 6 or ULEV standard as a minimum (EURO 5 vehicles are not considered to meet that standard);

Financial implications

6. Vehicle owners will be able to invest in vehicles with lower emission levels sooner, allowing more time to recover the cost of their investment.

Legal issues

7. In order to be enforceable, the application of new emission standards requires the attachment of additional conditions to vehicles licences. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 at sections 47, 48 and 51 allows the Licensing Authority to attach to vehicle licences such conditions as it considers ‘reasonably necessary’. Improving standards in vehicle safety and air quality are relevant factors in this respect.
8. Improving air quality is in the interests of all persons and therefore no separate equalities assessment is considered necessary.

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