



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Proposal to Suspend Implementation of Emissions Policy contained within the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy 2019-2022	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Full Licensing Committee 17 November 2021	

Is this an Executive Decision:	NO	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is this in the Forward Plan:	NO	Is the Report Confidential: If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	NO []

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE



Interim Monitoring Officer: **Chris Eberley**

Date Signature

Chief Finance Officer: **Sal Khan**

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 17 November 2021

REPORT TITLE: Proposal to Suspend Implementation of Emissions Policy contained within the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy 2019-2022

PORTFOLIO: Enforcement Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: Mark Rizk

CONTACT OFFICER: Margaret Woolley Ext. No. x1479

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To consider a request from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade in East Staffordshire to reconsider the Emissions Policy currently contained within the Taxi and Private Hire Policy 2019-2021.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Licensing Team have received several requests over recent months asking that consideration be given to reconsideration of the current Emissions Policy contained within the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy.

3. Report

- 3.1. The Licensing Team have received several requests over recent months asking that the Council consider a review of the Emissions Policy contained within the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy.
- 3.2. The Policy states that “Any application for the grant or renewal of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence shall not be granted unless the vehicle complies with the current Euro technology. As from 01/04/2022, all licensed hackney carriage vehicles and all private hire vehicles must be fitted with at

least a Euro 4 compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a petrol engine, or at least a Euro 6 complaint engine for vehicles fitted with a diesel engine”.

- 3.3. The current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy expires in 2022 and will shortly be the subject of formal consultation with the trade and the subject of a full report back to the Licensing Committee on any proposed amendments. The revised policy will require Full Council approval.
- 3.4. The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade have asked for a delay and reconsideration to the implementation following the financial impact of Covid Pandemic and information from other authorities regarding local implementation dates. See Appendix 2 for examples of other Authorities vehicle policies.
- 3.5. Currently vehicle licences are issued for 1 year. Private hire vehicles are allowed to be licensed until they are 7 years old and hackney carriages until 10 years old.
- 3.6. Vehicle licences currently cost £164 per annum.
- 3.7. There are currently 174 vehicles that will not be compliant by 31 March 2022. There are currently 431 vehicles on the fleet.
- 3.8. Licensing Authorities are being urged by central government to exercise discretion in dealings with the licensed taxi trade. Guidance states that:
- 3.9. “Licensing authorities should consider ways in which they can use their existing powers to support the trade to continue to operate and provide essential travel”.
- 3.10. The report therefore proposes that the Council temporarily suspend the implementation of Paragraph 19 of the Councils Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2019 – 22, which deals with the implementation of the Emissions policy, until the Policy has been reviewed, consulted upon and amended in 2022.

4. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Anya Murray

- 4.1. The main financial issues arising from this Report are as follows:
 - 4.1.1 If committee take the option of Suspending Paragraph 19 (paragraph 10.3), the vehicle licence will still be payable.
 - 4.1.2 If the committee decides not to suspend the implementation of the Emissions Policy (paragraph 10.4), then the vehicle will no longer be licenced from the 1 April 2022. The vehicle owner is then anticipated to bring a new vehicle for

licensing at a current cost of £164.

5. Risk Assessment and Management

5.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

5.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

5.2.1. Suspending the implementation would assist and support the taxi trade moving forwards.

5.3. **Negative** (Threats):

5.3.1. The suspension of the policy would delay vehicles being Euro 4/6 compliant.

5.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

6. Legal Considerations

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Caroline Elwood*

6.1. Paragraph 19 of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2019 – 2022 deals Emissions and provides that from 1 April 2022 all licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles must be fitted with at least a Euro 4 compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a petrol engine and at least a Euro 6 compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a diesel engine.

6.2. The Council's Policy was reviewed and approved by full Council on 3 December 2018 and any proposed amendments to the Policy from the Committee will require full Council approval.

7. Equalities and Health

7.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

7.2. **Health impacts:** An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

8. Human Rights

8.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

9. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

9.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

10. **Recommendation(s)**

10.1. That the Licensing Committee consider the information contained within this report.

10.2. Options available to the Committee to consider are:

10.3. To Recommend to Council the temporary suspension of Paragraph 19 of the Councils Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2019 – 22, which deals with the implementation of the Emissions policy, until the Policy has been reviewed, consulted upon and amended in 2022.

10.4. The committee may decide not to suspend the implementation of the Emissions policy.

11. **Appendices**

11.1. Appendix 1: Current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy

11.2. Appendix 2: Examples of other Authorities vehicle policies