

## Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Consultation

I am writing to invite you as part of the formal consultation process to comment upon proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

The proposed amendments were considered by the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 23rd October 2019.

The proposal is that:

1. **New Vehicle Licences.** A 4 year vehicle age policy with effect from April 2020 for all newly licensed vehicles. This means the EURO 6 emissions standard applies from April 2020 to all new licences.
2. **Existing Vehicles.** Adopt a maximum 8 year vehicle life with a start date of April 2023. The taxi trade therefore have 3 years from April 2020. This means that from April 2023 all diesel and petrol engine vehicles will be Euro 6.
3. **Wheelchair accessible vehicles.** Existing vehicles will have an extra 2 years added to the age restriction meaning that April 2025 is the compliance date. As a consequence it is possible that a relatively low number of wheelchair accessible vehicles will be Euro 5 between April 2023 to April 2025.
4. **'Full electric'** and **'zero emission at source'** vehicles would be exempt

The Council seeks the views of any person or body likely to be affected by, or has an interest in these matters.

Should you wish to comment upon the proposals, please forward your comments by email to [licensing@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@northumberland.gov.uk) or in writing to Licensing Manager, Housing and Public Protection Service, Stakeford Depot, East View, Stakeford, Northumberland, NE62 5TR to be received no later than 12 noon **on Friday, 17th January 2020**.