

North Tyneside Council
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Environmental Considerations and Emission/Age Standards

This Policy is listed in the Authority's Transport Strategy for 2017-2032 as a Policy that supports the delivery of the Transport Strategy in the Borough. The North Tyneside Transport Strategy was approved by Cabinet in May 2017 and commits to managing the Borough's transport network effectively having regard to all forms of transport including that provided by hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. This Policy has therefore been developed having regard to the Authority's Transport Strategy. The Transport Strategy for 2017-32 can be found on the North Tyneside Council website.

As detailed in Chapter 1, one of the objectives of this Policy is the promotion of environmental sustainability. To meet this objective the Policy seeks to promote the uptake of zero and ultra- low emission vehicles and to permit licenses to be granted only for those vehicles that comply with particular emission standards within this Policy.

Emissions from hackney carriage and private hire vehicles can be immediately improved through encouraging the better maintenance of vehicles and by drivers switching off their vehicle's engine when stationary and so preventing the idling of engines, including in particular hackney carriages parked at ranks or licensed vehicles waiting for a fare. Non-idling technology is becoming more prevalent in newer vehicles and over time all licensed vehicles should be able to make use of this technology.

Emission standards

As part of the need to promote environmental sustainability and reducing pollution caused by road vehicles, this Policy introduces common requirements for emissions from hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. The emission standards set out below aim to assist in meeting the need to improve air quality in the Borough and the wider region.

The following emission standards will be implemented over a four year period:

- (i) From 1 April 2024 no new vehicle licence will be granted for the vehicle unless it meets the minimum emission standards of Euro 6 for diesel vehicles and Euro 5 for petrol vehicles
- (ii) From 1 April 2026 a vehicle licence will not be renewed unless the vehicle meets the minimum emission standards of Euro 6 for diesel vehicles and Euro 5 for petrol vehicles
- (iii) From 1 April 2027 a wheelchair accessible vehicle licence will not be renewed unless the vehicle meets the minimum emission standards of Euro 6 for diesel vehicles and Euro 5 for petrol vehicles

All 'Full electric' and 'zero emission at source' vehicles will be exempt from the standards set out above.

If any application is refused due to a vehicle failing to meet the emission standard the licensee/applicant can appeal to Regulation and Review Committee against the decision to refuse to grant a licence or to the Magistrates' Court or Crown Court as appropriate.