

Dear Licensing

I write in support of the proposed change in policy to improve tailpipe emissions from taxis and a transition for the local taxi fleet towards the use of electric vehicles.

As you are aware air quality remains an issue in the centre of Lancaster with nitrogen dioxide levels still exceeding the objective standard at some locations around the gyratory. Taxis provide a significant contribution to road traffic emissions in these locations and traffic counts undertaken in 2016 indicated that taxis (PH and HC) can account at times for up to 10% of traffic and often around 5-6% (see attached). Analysis of the fleet in 2018 also indicated that the majority of the fleet at that time were still diesel vehicles and had an age profile containing a large proportion of Euro 4 and 5 vehicles with higher emissions (see attached spreadsheet).

A transition to a new policy which requires better emission standards to be applied and ultimately a transition to the use of electric vehicles with no tailpipe emissions is therefore very much welcomed and if supported will be a key action included in the soon to be produced new air quality action plan for Lancaster. The approach as you are no doubt aware will also contribute to the climate change objectives as identified by the declaration of a recognised climate emergency locally.

You will be aware that the Council is currently in the process of providing rapid chargers in three car parks which should be available for use from August 2021. These are ultimately intended for exclusive taxi use (when sufficient electric taxi demand exists). Other chargers have been requested through development control, with assurances obtained in some cases to ensure access and suitable provision for taxi use. The City and County Council have/are providing chargers in a number of locations around the district for general public use.

Further engagement with the taxi trade is proposed for later this year following the delivery of the chargers, to consult the trade on what other possible assistance the Council can offer to assist a transition to electric vehicles.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can offer any further assistance, information or support regarding this matter.

Best Regards
Paul

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