

Agenda Item 4a



Eastbourne Eco Action

Network CIC

ADDRESS TO BE INSERTED

16.05.21

Dear Councillor Maxted and fellow member of the Licensing Committee,

Unfortunately, I am not in a position to attend this evening meeting and hope that you will accept my written statement.

As the Chairman of the EEAN Transport Group it was with some interest that I looked at the new licencing proposals for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles. Given that the Council declared a climate emergency just over a year ago I was keen to see if a clear direction towards carbon neutrality in this sector was evident in the documents, especially as I had forwarded some suggestions to several councillors as to how progress might be made towards this objective.

I read about magnetic fittings to secure door signs, the need for drivers to fulfil English proficiency and the need to update convictions guidance, all of which are important. I was more than disappointed on reading page 9, 'Vehicle Specifications', that there was only a mention for diesel and petrol vehicles to meet the EURO 6 and EURO 4 standards respectively. Nothing about greenhouse gases or atmospheric pollution!

Equally, I could find no mention or vision in the documents that would guide the sector towards a reduction in greenhouse gases in the short or longer term.

Whilst I am aware of the difficult times that Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers have experienced recently during the COVID-19 pandemic and the costs they have incurred in the fitting of CCTV to their vehicles, I feel that there should have been a clear statement in the new documentation referring to the need for all hire vehicles to be carbon neutral at the

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exhaust pipe by January 1st 2030. Such a statement would give the sector nearly 9 years to plan for this eventuality.

Other Local Authorities are being proactive in the drive to address the climate emergency. I read with interest the recently produced Conservative led Canterbury City Councils Taxi and Private Hire Policy which states:

'The entire fleet will be required to be low emission, (LEV) either all electric, electric/fuel hybrid or Euro 6 diesel and Euro 6 petrol compliant by 1 August, 2022.'

and

'The entire fleet should be all electric by 1 August, 2030.'

There may be political reasons for the weakness of the current licencing proposals in this respect or it may be that you have informally mentioned ideas to reduce carbon emissions to the private hire sector or you are in the process of tackling carbon emissions from taxis and plan to publish your plans later this year?

To the observer the current licensing arrangements appear as a missed opportunity to reduce carbon emissions.

I and the Transport Group would like to know if you have plans to move the sector forward in reducing its carbon emissions in the very near future.

Name David Everson

Status Chairman EEAN Transport Group

[Eastbourne ECO Action Network](#)