

## **Policy and Guidance for Private Hire Vehicles In Relation Age and Emissions for Vehicles.**

### **Policy**

#### **Age and Emission**

1. With effect from 1 November 2001 no vehicles shall be licensed for the first time as a private hire vehicle if it is more than 7 years since the date of its first registration in this or any other country.
2. With effect from 1 November 2006 the Council shall not renew the licence of any vehicle if it is more than 7 years since the date of its first registration in this or any other country.

### **Private Hire Vehicles (wheelchair accessible) Waiver of age restriction**

#### **Exceptional Condition**

3. With effect from 29 June 2009 The Council may waiver the age restriction in the case of individual vehicles where an application is made and the Council considers that the vehicle is of an exceptional standard.
  - a. Private Hire vehicles that have provision to carry passengers seated in a wheelchair be licensed for no more than 10 years of age from the date of first registration.
  - b. Any request for an exemption due to a licensed vehicle being in "exceptional condition" will normally be granted for a 12-month period, after which time a further application would be required that would again be considered against the agreed standards.
  - c. Consideration for an exemption to the age limit will normally only be considered for vehicles currently licensed with the Council.
  - d. That any vehicle licensed outside of the standard age limit policy will be subject to 3 annual vehicle inspections per year at the Council's vehicle test station.
4. With effect from 29 June 2009 Private Hire vehicles that have provision to carry passengers seated in a wheelchair be licensed for no more than 10 years of age from the date of first registration *(for clarification vehicles of this type can only take advantage of the additional age policy if they are currently licensed upon application as stated in 3&4 above.)*

### **Private Hire Vehicles – Additional testing**

5. With effect from 1 April 2011 all private hire vehicles that have reached the age of 5 years will be subject to an additional annual inspection, to take effect following the renewal date of the licence. These vehicles to be then have three tests in all subsequent twelve-month licensed periods. Such tests to be undertaken four monthly intervals.

#### **Emissions**

6. With effect from 1 April 2011 emission tests will be carried out on all private hire vehicles at every mechanical inspection.

### **In relation to Private Hire Vehicles – Engine Type / Replacement**

7. With effect from 16 February 2009, any vehicle that has been manufactured with a diesel engine that is Euro III or higher specification [manufactured after 1 January 2001] that has been fitted with a replacement engine that is not Euro III compliant will be required to have an approved emission reduction kit fitted. Any reduction kit must be fitted by the next routine scheduled vehicle inspection

Proprietors wishing to fit a emission reduction kit on a private hire vehicle should in the first instance seek advice from the licensing unit.