Appendix I

Licensed Vehicle Age and Emissions Policy

From the date of implementation of this policy, licences will not normally be granted in respect of vehicles that were first registered (or, in the case of imported vehicles, manufactured) more than 5 years prior to the date that the application was made.

From the date that the policy is introduced, licences will not normally be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that was first registered (or, in the case of imported vehicles, manufactured) more than 10 years prior to the date of renewal (or 12 years in the case of purpose-built wheelchair accessible vehicles). This applies to the renewal of licences only.

In cases where vehicles are licensed at the time that this policy is introduced, the application of these requirements will be done in accordance with the Council's implementation scheme. This will only apply if there has not been a break in the licence period since the introduction of this policy.

A vehicle may be considered for licensing beyond these upper age limits if it is in 'exceptional condition'. The criteria for 'exceptional condition' are set out below.

Exceptional Condition Criteria

A vehicle will be considered to be in 'exceptional condition' if **all** of the following apply:

1. The mileage for the vehicle is no higher than the average mileage that could be expected for a similar vehicle if that vehicle was used solely for social, domestic and pleasure purposes.

2. The vehicle passes the council's vehicle inspection.

3. The bodywork is in near perfect condition with no signs of panel age deterioration, dents, scratches, stone chips, or rust or any other abrasions that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.

4. The general paint condition should show no signs of fading, discolouration or mismatching that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.

5. The interior trim, panels, seating and carpets and upholstery are in excellent condition, clean and free from damage and discolouration.

6. The boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and undamaged.

7. Passenger areas are free from damp or any other odours that may cause passenger discomfort.

8. The vehicle must is in excellent mechanical condition and in all respects safe and roadworthy, with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or bodywork.

9. The vehicle must have a complete service record to show that it has been properly serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's service specification.

Emissions Standards

In order to impact on emissions it is important to set standards that are common to all within the taxi fleet, to ensure consistency and a level playing field for proprietors, operators and drivers. The age of vehicles and the exhaust emission specification are critical to the level of pollutants emitted. Consequently, to improve air quality and reduce emissions from the taxi fleet, standards relating to the exhaust emissions will be introduced in addition to the requirements regarding the age of vehicles.

In terms of expected emission standards it requires that that all licensed vehicles which are submitted for:

- licensing for the first time from the 1st September 2015 must meet or exceed Euro 5 emission standards

- licensing for the first time from 1st April 2020, must meet or exceed Euro 6 emission standards

Where vehicles do not meet the relevant emissions criteria the proprietor may:

- Have the vehicle adapted / modified to meet the standard

- Change the fuel that is used to a cleaner alternative, such as bio diesel

- Replace the vehicle with one that meets the emission standard

Low Emission Vehicles

The Council aims to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles in the Borough, and will seek to examine the feasibility of introducing differential licensing fees for electric hybrid and ultra-low emission vehicles

It is anticipated that Electric Vehicle rapid re-charging points for use by the public will be available at locations in Rotherham town centre from 2016.