

Stroud District Council's Consultation on:

- Common Standards for taxi and private hire licensing in Gloucestershire
- Proposal to exempt all electric vehicles from Stroud District Council’s vehicle age policy

13th April 2021 to 6th July 2021

Schedule of consultation comments and proposed responses by the Principal Licensing Officer

	Consultee	Comment	Response
1	Taxi Driver	<p>I totally agree that there should be an incentive for electric vehicle owners, as the initial investment is huge compared to an ICE vehicle. Maybe also reduce cost of vehicle plating/renewal?</p> <p>However, the charging infrastructure in Stroud is extremely poor (basically only 7kw charger at Tesco or a very expensive charger in the multi-storey at Merrywalks, which is not easily accessible due to works and corona)</p> <p>Would it be possible for the council offices to get one or two 22kw chargers installed, either in Stroud or at the Ebley offices, same as Tewkesbury have done (they have BP Pulse, but i would also recommend pod-point).</p> <p>These providers would enable you (council) to monetise access to the chargers and create different levels of income (tariffs for staff, council employees, another tariff for Taxi drivers maybe, then another tariff for general public, etc...) this income would</p>	<p>Comments about the charging infrastructure noted and fed back to Stroud District Council’s Carbon Neutral Team who are working on the strategy and action to support the communities of Stroud District to becoming carbon neutral by 2030</p>

		offset the initial investment and cover the running/maintenance costs.	
2	Taxi Driver	I am against any policy to make electric vehicles mandatory. There are very few electrical points in the district and the cost of all electric vehicles is prohibitive and almost double the price of another fuel vehicle. In rural areas taxis are an important form of community transport however operators have many more 'dead' miles than you would in an urban area. If all electric vehicles were imposed it would mean a reduction in the number of taxis and fares would have to increase to cover the costs which would be an unfair impact on taxi users and those who have no alternative transport.	Comments about prohibitive cost of electric vehicles and lack of charging infrastructure noted.
3	Dursley Town Council	The Council's Planning Committee considered the above consultation and agreed the following response: <i>Dursley Town Council support the Gloucestershire wide proposals but object to the car age policy proposals which, in the interest of fairness and equality, should be the same for all, with no special exemption for electric vehicles.</i>	Comment noted. However encouraging taxi and private hire businesses to invest in electric vehicles is a significant move forward in the aim to make Stroud Carbon Neutral by 2030 which is a key priority of Stroud District Council. The taxi and private hire trade will only invest in the higher cost of electric vehicles if they have the confidence that those vehicles can stay licenced for a longer period of time enabling them to recoup the cost of their investment. A further review of Stroud District Council's vehicle age policy will take place later this year in stage 2 of the taxi and private hire policy review. The aim is to move away from an age policy and introduce an emissions-based policy.