

OBJECTION TO THE EMISSIONS DRAFT POLICY 15th FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Councillors

Birmingham and Solihull Taxi alliance represents the Hackney Carriage Drivers, Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators and we are the largest trade organisation.

A report was prepared by the head of licensing Chris Neville which was presented to the Licensing Committee on 15th February 2017 for your approval to adopt the CAZ policy. The report was flawed and misleading.

How can you implement something when it has not been confirmed what the emissions standards are going to be?

Trade reps should have been consulted before this report was prepared and presented to the members. If this had been done then there would not be so much confusion which has led to an enormous amount of stress on the drivers.

The DEFRA document states that the government will assess local plans to ensure they are effective, fair and good value. The current draft policy is neither fair nor of good value.

The current policy is unreasonable and unacceptable as it will have devastating effects on the trade and their livelihoods. There are other options available in reducing emissions which have not been fully explored. It is unreasonable and unacceptable to force the drivers out of employment at such short notice, bearing in mind the council has known since 2010 that they had to reduce emissions.

The buses have received £30 million and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade has received nothing, Why Not? Our trade is not the major cause of pollution.

We are not against reducing the emissions standards but what we are against is this unfair policy that is being put in to place in Birmingham.

We have raised all our concerns and made a number of suggestions to Chris Neville who has confirmed that he will include them in his report to the Licensing Committee.

We hope you will take on board our views and suggestions as to how we can reduce the emissions and not put such a huge burden on the drivers when making your decision.

Kind Regards

Mohammed Rashid – Chairman

Birmingham and Solihull Taxi Alliance