



NOTICE OF MEETING

LICENSING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2021 AT 4.30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL

Telephone enquiries to Democratic Services - Tel 023 9283 4870
Email: Democratic@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Information with regard to public access due to Covid precautions

- Attendees will be requested to undertake an asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting.
- If symptomatic you must not attend and self-isolate following the stay at home guidance issued by Public Health England.
- All attendees are required to wear a face covering while moving around within the Guildhall (requirement of the venue)
- Attendees will be required to take a temperature check on arrival (requirement of the venue)
- Although it will no longer be a requirement attendees may choose to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall and are requested to follow the one way system in place.
- Attendees are encouraged book in to the venue (QR code). An NHS test and trace log will be retained and maintained for 21 days for those that cannot or have not downloaded the app.
- Those not participating in the meeting and wish to view proceedings are encouraged to do so remotely via the livestream link

Licensing Committee Members:

Councillors Claire Udy (Chair), Scott Payter-Harris (Vice-Chair), Dave Ashmore, Kimberly Barrett, Stuart Brown, Tom Coles, Jason Fazackarley, Charlotte Gerada, Ian Holder, Hannah Hockaday, George Madgwick, Lee Mason, Robert New, Benedict Swann and Daniel Wemyss

Standing Deputies

Councillors Matthew Atkins, Chris Attwell, Cal Corkery, George Fielding, Leo Madden, Gemma New, Darren Sanders and John Smith

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the relevant officer by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (eg. for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted. Contact: the Democratic Services Officer as listed above.

AGENDA

Meeting information: Risk assessment for the Council Chamber

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Members' Interests**
- 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 13 - 18)**

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Licensing Policy meeting held on 18 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

- 4 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (Pages 19 - 24)**

The purpose of the meeting is to brief members of the Licensing Committee on the arrangements for Electric Vehicle charging points so far as they relate to use by licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

The report originally marked on the agenda "to follow" was published on 8 October.

Members of the public are permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting nor records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

Whilst every effort will be made to webcast this meeting, should technical or other difficulties occur, the meeting will continue without being webcast via the Council's website.

This meeting is webcast (videoed), viewable via the Council's livestream account at <https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785>

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	Coronavirus Risk Assessment for the Council Chambers
Company	Portsmouth City Council
Department	Corporate Health and Safety, Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services Directorate
Activity	<p>Covid-19 operating safely in the Guildhall Council Chambers</p> <p>This risk assessment is a live document and will be updated as new information is issued.</p>
Date	19 July 2021 (v3)
Review date	Ongoing
Author	Lynda Martin, Health and Safety Manager

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
<p>Risk of exposure to Covid-19 virus</p>	<p>Staff, contractors and attendees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity for the Guildhall Council Chamber for all attendees (including members of the public) has been calculated to be maximum of 30 people to accommodate 2 m social distancing. • Improvements in ventilation permits up to an additional 30 attendees. Members of the public will be advised to follow Covid safety recommendations. If 2m social distancing cannot be maintained then face coverings should continue to be worn. • The actions taken to maximise ventilation in the Guildhall Council Chamber includes: • The removal of internal casement secondary glazing windows. • Large casement windows will be opened. • Pedestal fans - positioned in each of the wing areas and along the back wall behind the pillars, maximum speed and modulation setting. • High level doors and window - the double doors to the high level galleries and the gallery corridor window will be opened. • The Guildhall deems, with the rate of infection and transmission still high that the following mitigations remain in place and will be conditions of entry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The wearing of masks ○ Temperature checks ○ To ask for a Covid pass (double vaccination / negative lateral flow test) • Therefore: • All attendees are required to wear a face covering while moving around within the Guildhall. If 2m social distancing cannot be maintained then face coverings should continue to be worn. • On arrival all attendees must scan the Test and trace QR code, sanitise their hands and may have their temperature checked 	<p>All attendees will be invited.</p> <p>Signage displayed.</p> <p>All staff to monitor and politely challenge non-conformity directly.</p> <p>Posters displayed.</p>	<p>In place</p>

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
Page 7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All attendees are requested to undertake an Asymptomatic / lateral flow test within 48 hours of a meeting. Information on how to access this testing can be found on the Portsmouth City Council website: (https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/getting-tested-for-coronavirus-in-portsmouth/community-testing-for-covid-19-in-portsmouth/ or https://intranet.portsmouth.gov.uk/hr/wellbeing/coronavirus/testing-for-coronavirus/) • If the result is positive you must not attend the meeting, you and your household must self-isolate and you must book a confirmatory PCR test • Further mitigations to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission: • Attendees should be reminded of the need to regularly wash hands for 20 seconds using soap and water or hand sanitiser. • Maintain good hygiene particularly when entering or leaving. Hand sanitiser will be located at the entrance of the building. • Practice social distancing, trying where possible to keep 2m apart. Where 2m cannot be maintained 1m+ applies, this involves additional measures i.e. Face coverings and not facing each other etc. • No hospitality to be provided. • Some members are in the clinically extremely vulnerable group or vulnerable group https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/ Therefore: • Members are advised not to use public transport to get to and from Council meetings wherever possible. • Council Meeting is scheduled so members can avoid peak travel times on public transport if they have not alternative option. • All members will be requested to sit 2 metres apart and must adhere to arrival and exit procedures as detailed above. • All members may be required to undertake a temperature check on arrival and will sanitise their hands. • All member will bring their own refreshments. • All members will bring and use their own pen/stationery. 	<p>Staff to monitor. Any non compliance will result in the attendee not be permitted entry to the building.</p> <p>Guidance sheet provided to all attendees in advance of the meeting.</p>	

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The duration of the meeting should be reduced as much as possible to only consider essential business. Multiple exit doors will be opened at the end of the meeting to facilitate a straightforward exit from the building and minimise congestion. 		
<p>Social distancing and NHS Test and Trace - advice from Public Health Portsmouth (PHP)</p> <p>Maintaining 2m distance is primarily about reducing the risk of infection. However, it is important to recognise that for NHS Test and Trace, the definition of a close contact of a positive case outside of the household is either being face to face with someone for 1 minute or being within 2m of someone for 15 minutes. Therefore, people may still be asked to self-isolate for 10 days if they are not able to meet the 2m requirement (regardless of any of the 1m+ mitigations). Further details can be found here https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works</p>				
Hygiene and Prevention Page 8	Staff, contractors and attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning staff are working at the Guildhall so each hand rail, door plate and stairwell is regularly cleaned. Cleaning wipes are provided at the reception desk in the Octagon. Sanitiser provided at entry, exit and at all lift lobbies. Building ventilation adjusted to provide good extraction and fresh air turnover (where possible) Doorways marked, where possible, with entry and exit channels. Only one person should use the Lifts at a time. Staggered arrival and exit times to minimise the number arriving and leaving in one go. Follow entry/exit signage to the building Member's seats to be located 2m distance from each other. Tables to be used to ensure chairs are not moved. Each speaker to have their own microphone. No sharing of microphones. All attendees are to bring their own water bottles/drinks. Members are to remain in their own seats throughout the meeting. There will be no swapping of chairs when elected to another position. 	Sanitising equipment with COSHH safety sheets are provided on arrival and in each reception area. Posters displayed Signage regarding hand washing placed in all restroom areas All soap provided will be anti-bacterial soap Gloves will be worn by staff completing	In place

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will be sat with their group colleagues to minimise the risk of members needing to move to speak to colleagues. . Attendees should only leave their seat to use the rest rooms. 	<p>cleaning and/or sanitising. Gloves to be disposed of appropriately after cleaning is undertaken.</p> <p>Exiting will be undertaken in a distanced manner maintaining 2m social distancing at all times.</p>	
<p>Test and trace</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 9</p>	<p>Staff, contractors and attendees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact details of all staff are held by the meeting organiser. No members of the public can just turn up on the day. All attendees must scan the venue's test and trace QR code on arrival. NHS test and trace log to be retained and maintained for those that cannot or have not downloaded the app. Contact details will be held securely by the event manager for 21 days and will then be securely disposed of. 		<p>In place</p>
<p>Symptomatic attendees</p>	<p>Staff, contractors and attendees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees briefed if symptomatic they must not attend the council meeting and must self-isolate following the stay at home guidance issued by Public Health England. If any person displays or reports symptoms of Covid-19 they must leave the building by the closest exit, return home directly and follow the stay at home guidance for households issued by Public Health England. If the person is unable to leave the building safely on their own, event staff will ask them to move to the first aid room and we will call 111 for advice. The area will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised that has been occupied by the person using the correct PPE. 	<p>First aid staff always available during working hours. Additional PPE available to first responders in the event of the person showing symptoms.</p>	<p>In place</p>

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close contacts will be notified. This is anyone who has come into face to face contact (under 1 metre) with the case for any length of time, or within 2 metres of the case for more than 15 minutes'. 		
Ventilation and air conditioning	Staff, contractors and attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing ventilation systems have been reviewed and improvements have made in the Guildhall to maximise fresh air into the building and ventilation where possible All windows to remain open in chamber during the meeting 	The Guildhall Trust and PCC Facilities Team to implement and monitor.	In place/ongoing
Toilet facilities	Staff, contractors and attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to toilet facilities will be limited to one person at a time. Cleaning products are provided for use by attendees to clean area after use, paying particular attention to contact points i.e. door handles, taps etc. Posters are displayed reminding attendees staff to clean down touch points etc. after use and 'single person use' posters displayed. 	<p>Facilities team to monitor</p> <p>Additional cleaning during the day and after the meeting.</p> <p>Staff to inform Line manager where there are concerns.</p> <p>Posters displayed</p>	In place/ongoing
PPE	Staff, contractors and attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees must wear a face covering and are encouraged to bring their own. Face coverings to be available at the entrance to the Guildhall if required. Gloves, anti-bacterial wipes and bin bags to be provide to all events staff. Sanitiser available at the entrance and exit of the building and in reception areas. 	<p>Posters displayed</p> <p>Guidance provided in advance of</p>	In place/ongoing

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
		<p>The following guidance on using face coverings should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash/sanitise hands prior to fitting the face covering • when wearing a covering avoid touching your face or mask as you will contaminate the covering • change your face covering if it becomes damp or contaminated, • continue to wash your hands regularly • if the material is washable then follow the manufacturer's instructions if not dispose of in your usual waste 	meeting to all attendees.	
Manual handling	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to follow manual handling policy and guidance • 2 person or more lift should be avoided where possible if participants are closer than 2m. Consider use of mechanical aids etc. • Where a 2 person or more lift is unavoidable the risk assessment must be revisited to ensure Covid-safe mitigation measures are in place i.e. face coverings, disposable gloves, minimising exposure time etc. 	Meeting to be planned in advance with alternatives to 2 man lifts provided wherever possible.	In place/ongoing
Financial Risk	Staff, contractors and attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council meeting may need to be cancelled at short notice if the Covid-19 situation changes due to local outbreaks, local sustained community transmission, or a serious and imminent threat to public health. • Contact details of all attendees held by the event manager to enable easy efficient cancellation. • Technology in place to move to virtual council meeting if required and permitted by legislation. 	<p>Financial commitments minimised wherever possible.</p> <p>PCC Insurance department aware of council meeting.</p>	In Place

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how	All controls required	How controls will be checked	Confirmed all in place or further action required
Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This risk assessment is a live document and will be updated and a result of consultation and as new information becomes available. 		
Further information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further government information on support during the coronavirus pandemic can be found here HSE guidance, on working safely during the coronavirus pandemic can be found here The Government's guidance for the safe use of council buildings 		

Agenda Item 3

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Committee held on Friday, 18 December 2020 as a virtual meeting.

Present

Councillors Claire Udy (Chair)
Scott Payter-Harris (Vice-Chair)
Dave Ashmore
Chris Attwell
Tom Coles
Jason Fazackarley
John Ferrett
George Fielding
Hannah Hockaday
Leo Madden
Lee Mason
Robert New
Benedict Swann
Linda Symes
Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (from 11:00)

14. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

15. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Dave Ashmore declared a personal interest as the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.

16. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Matters - Amendments to the Statement of Licensing Policy (AI 3)

The report having previously been before the Committee on 4 December 2020 was deferred for additional detail to be provided.

Erika Styles, Air Quality Engagement Officer read out a deputation from Mr Bruce Hall, General Manager of Aqua Cars which had also been circulated to the committee. Deputations are not minuted but can be viewed as part of the webcast of the meeting here:

[Licensing Committee, 18 December 2020 on Livestream](#)

A brief adjournment then took place in order for the Chair to consult with the Monitoring Officer regarding whether Councillor Hockaday could take part in the meeting today. Councillor Hockaday had not managed to join the meeting before the start of this item due to technical issues although she been listening to the deputation via the webstream. Following the advice received the Chair said that Councillor Hockaday could take part in the meeting today and updated guidance

from the Monitoring Officer would be circulated to members in due course on this matter.

The report was introduced by Sam Whitfield, Technical Transport Planner. Hayley Trower, Air Quality Lead for Transport, Nickii Humphreys, Licensing Manager and Ross Lee, Licensing Officer were present to answer questions. Sam detailed the changes made to the report since 4 December and advised that the recommendations in the report remained unchanged. The slides that Sam presented were later circulated to the Committee. A minor amendment to recommendation 1. iii) to include the word "is" was outlined during the presentation.

Members' Questions

In response to questions officers clarified the following points:

- Diesel vehicles must meet at least the Euro 6 Emission Standard and for Petrol vehicles at least the Euro 4 Emission Standard, once the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is introduced otherwise they must pay the charge when driving in the zone.
- The 2019 data shows the city is in exceedance of air pollution levels. The new data would be validated next year once there is a whole year's worth of data.
- The requirement as existing is that vehicles should be under 4 years of age on first licensing so that not would not be a change. Within the Euro 6 Emission Standard there is a huge range and over time the measure will be strengthened so the newer vehicles are more likely to be truer Euro 6 than the older ones.
- The garage examinations show analysis by age groups. Vehicles over three years old in 2016 were failing the prescribed tests by a rate of 63% compared to 48% for vehicles under three years old. In 2018 vehicles over three years old had a 29% failure rate; 2019 a 24% failure rate and 2020, so far, a 34% failure rate.
- Leeds did offer interest free loans but the take-up of grants was much higher. Loans are not something that the Council is exploring at the moment following responses to the public consultation but the Council is open to looking at this again in the future if there is a low uptake in grants.
- The recommendations proposed are about creating a narrative to Government to show that the Council are taking air pollution seriously. Older vehicles create more emissions and there is a legal requirement to meet the legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time. The CAZ will stay in place until we meet those limits and are able to maintain those limits. If we encourage the newer vehicles then it is likely the CAZ will be in place for a shorter time.
- The Council receive monthly reports from the garage that look at the age profiles and whether vehicles are meeting standards. Taxis are subject to more use than normal vehicles. Data for last month showed that 67% of Hackney Carriage vehicles over 8 years old failed on their annual inspections and 63% of Private Hire vehicles over 8 years old failed. If the Committee agreed to allow vehicles over 8 years of age to be relicensed, this could be of detriment to the travelling public as more failures will mean that the vehicles are off the road for a period whilst repairs are made.

- The upper age limit is a guideline to help officers, the Committee and the trade know what the standards are. It is not unreasonable to have an upper age limit policy provided that the Council can show some flexibility.
- Diesel Euro 5 vehicles emit about 0.18 grams of nitrogen oxide per kilometre. Euro 6 vehicles emit about 0.08 grams of nitrogen oxide per kilometre.
- The Council needs to demonstrate to Central Government that the issue is being taken seriously so the Council can unlock funding for the rapid EV charge points. If the Committee made a decision to increase the upper age limit for relicensed vehicles officers thought that JAQU would not award the funding. Officers felt it would make a material difference and by changing it to 10 years the Council would not secure the funding.
- If the vehicle is compliant they would be able to operate in the city but they will not be eligible for the funding.

Councillor Vernon- Jackson provided an update on the outcome of discussions held with Portsmouth Disability Forum on 15 December 2020 following the recent Cabinet decision regarding wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV). He said that the CAZ is to be introduced in 2021 and the modelling suggests without the CAZ Portsmouth would reach compliance in 2023 but with the CAZ it would reach compliance in 2022. Once Portsmouth has reached compliance and can show this is sustainable the CAZ is removed.

The Cabinet looked at the length of sunset period to give WAVs a time limited exemption to paying the CAZ charge. A longer sunset period would mean that WAVs would not be impacted by the introduction of the CAZ in the same way, and so would not be eligible for Clean Air Fund finance in renewing their vehicles. A shorter sunset period would mean that WAVs would still be eligible for funding. The Government has agreed a grant of £4,000 per WAV to change them to meet the standards, Council have applied to government to say this should be £15,000. On that basis the Cabinet opted for a 6 month period during which WAVs are not charged so they can access as large a grant as possible to upgrade their vehicles. This received a positive response from the Portsmouth Disability Forum.

In response to a question relating to grant funding for replacement of non-compliant WAVs officers clarified that the £600,000 is safeguarded. In order for WAVs to access the money the Cabinet have gone with a 6 month sunset period rather than 2 years.

Members' Comments

Members views were divided, some members thought that the officers' recommendations were sensible, because if the Committee changed the upper age limit for vehicles it would jeopardise the funding from JAQU. Other members felt that the concerns of the Committee from the last meeting had not been fully addressed and were very worried that the list of concerns raised in the deputation from Bruce Hall had not been robustly discredited. The Committee noted that the pandemic had hit taxi drivers very hard and some members were not comfortable to support the recommendations as this could have a massive impact on the trade.

A second proposal was made as follows:

- i) That, as a matter of local policy and condition for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licenses; all private hire and hackney carriage vehicles presented for initial licensing shall be under 6 years of age on first licensing (increased from 4)*
- ii) Any vehicle may be relicensed until 10 years of age (increased from 8)*

Following this officers gave the following advice to the Committee. Euro 6 was introduced in September 2015. Officers confirmed that the recommendations would not affect the whole fleet of licenced vehicles in Portsmouth. The Authority has 234 Hackney Carriage vehicles and around 900-1,000 private hire vehicles. This proposal would affect about approximately 1,200 vehicles and there are only 321 vehicles that are non-compliant. Of the 321 there are 108 Hackney Carriages, 52 of which are wheelchair accessible. The remainder are private hire vehicles and 6 of these are wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Hayley Trower reminded members that if the Committee moved away from current policy of 4 years for newly licenced vehicles, the authority will not be able to secure the funding for the rapid EV charge points as this worsens existing policy. The advice received from Central Government is that they require a tightening of licensing restrictions and a requirement for zero emission capable vehicles. If the Committee would like officers to go ahead with the amendment officers would make the best argument for that but wished to manage the Committee's expectations.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson joined the meeting at 11am. As he was not present at the start of the meeting he felt he should not be voting on the recommendations today.

A vote on the amendment was taken which was tied and upon the Chair's casting vote the amendment fell. A second vote took place to approve recommendations in the officers' report.

RESOLVED

1. The Licensing Committee approved the proposed amendments to the Statement of Licensing Policy (reference - minute 9/2016) as follows:

i) That, as a matter of local policy and condition for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licenses; all private hire and hackney carriage vehicles presented for initial licensing shall be under 4 years of age on first licensing;

and

ii) Any vehicle may be relicensed until 8 years of age, provided the vehicle meets with the requirements of the PATN guidance as approved by the Council and is supported by an evidenced service history in line with the manufacturers guidelines;

iii) That the upper age limit for licensed vehicles is to come into effect on 1st January 2022.

2. That the following statement be attached to the Statement of Licensing Policy (reference - minute 9/2016) in order to secure £0.5 million for rapid EV charging points specifically for use by the hackney carriage and private hire fleet:

"That all newly licensed vehicles be Zero Emissions Capable from

the 1st January 2025".

3. The licensing committee endorsed the proposal that officers will seek to negotiate a restructuring of funding from central Governments Joint Air Quality Unit, in that a greater amount be allocated to Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 pm.

Signed by the chair, Councillor Claire Udy

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Agenda Item 4

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Licensing Committee Briefing

Subject: Update on Rapid electric vehicle charge point installation

Date of meeting: Friday 15th October

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the installation of rapid electric vehicle (EV) charging points for use by the taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) trade.

2. Background

- 2.1 Due to ongoing high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, Portsmouth City Council (PCC) has been issued with ministerial directions from central government requiring the authority to take measures to bring air pollution to within legal limits in the shortest possible time.
- 2.2 Following detailed technical study of air pollution in the city, central government has mandated PCC to introduce a Class B charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ). This CAZ will result in daily charges being issued to 'non-compliant' vehicles which drive within the zone from 29th November 2021. Non-compliant vehicles are buses, coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles which are older than Euro 6 if diesel and older than Euro 4 if petrol.
- 2.3 The taxi and PHV trade in Portsmouth have been supported to upgrade their vehicles so that they become CAZ-compliant through grant funding. Drivers and owners of standard vehicles have been offered a grant of up to £1,500 per vehicle and for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) this grant was up to £4,000 per vehicle. Following feedback from the trade about the high cost of replacing multi-seat WAVs additional funding for WAVs was requested and the authority was successful in securing up to £5,000 per WAV.

Electric vehicles

- 2.4 The CAZ requires vehicles to meet Euro 6 standard if diesel or Euro 4 standard if petrol - there is no requirement for vehicles to be zero emission capable for the CAZ.
- 2.5 Encouraging the increased adoption of EVs has significant advantages for Portsmouth over petrol and diesel alternatives. EVs emit less air pollution, fewer carbon emissions (or zero tail pipe emissions for full EVs) and less noise pollution than vehicles with internal combustion engines. Therefore the more

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lower emission vehicles that we have in the city, the sooner we will reach the legal requirement for reducing air pollution in the city.

- 2.6 To date the uptake of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles amongst the taxi and PHV fleet in Portsmouth has been low due to a number of concerns including range anxiety, the cost of purchasing the vehicles, availability of boot space and lack of charging infrastructure in the city.
- 2.7 In recent years there have been increases in the models of electric vehicles available and improvements in the range of the batteries. Costs of electric vehicles have also been reducing with some availability of second-hand vehicles. Through the CAF funding outlined in paragraph 1.3 above, drivers and owners of taxi and PHVs in Portsmouth have been able to use this funding alongside government plug in grant funding for the purchase of certain electric vehicles.
- 2.8 To address concerns about the lack of EV charging infrastructure in the city PCC requested funding from central government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) for the installation of rapid EV charging points in the city that could be used by the taxi and PHV trade. This funding request was submitted to central government as part of the Portsmouth Local Air Quality Plan.
- 2.9 Central government confirmed that they would not release the funding to install the rapid EV charging points unless local licensing policy was amended to encourage greater uptake of zero emission vehicles.
- 2.10 In December 2020 a decision was made by PCCs Licensing Committee to introduce a tightening of taxi licensing requirements to help drive the switch to lower emission vehicles in the city and to secure the funding detailed below from central government. From 2025 all taxi and private hire vehicles licensed for the first time will need to be zero emission capable.
- 2.11 Due to this change in licensing policy JAQU awarded PCC £499,279 for the delivery of rapid EV charging points.

3. Progress since funding award

- 3.1 Since funding was awarded for the rapid EV charging points, surveys have been undertaken with the taxi and PHV trade to understand which locations would be most convenient for them to use. A contractor has also been appointed to deliver the rapid charging points and is currently undertaking a technical and economic feasibility of the locations identified.
- 3.2 The locations suggested by the taxi/ PHV trade has been used as the basis for the feasibility studies, acknowledging that final locations will be limited by locations of PCC operated car parks and the availability of suitable electrical supplies.

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- 3.3 The 50kW Tritium chargers will allow a typical EV to fully charge from empty within an hour. An operation and maintenance contract has been agreed to run with a supplier who will be responsible for setting the charging tariff and maintaining the equipment for at least three years.
- 3.4 To ensure that there is good availability of rapid EV charge points as uptake of EVs increases, it is proposed that multiple rapid charge points are located at each site to avoid drivers having to search for another site should one of the charges be in use. The potential locations for the rapid EV charge points are included at appendix A. This shows all sites being considered, although the funding allocated is unlikely to enable chargers at all of them.
- 3.5 The rapid chargers will help to build-out existing and proposed EV charging infrastructure to support the increasing penetration of EVs across Portsmouth. This includes almost 100 on-street chargers being installed under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS).

Appendices:

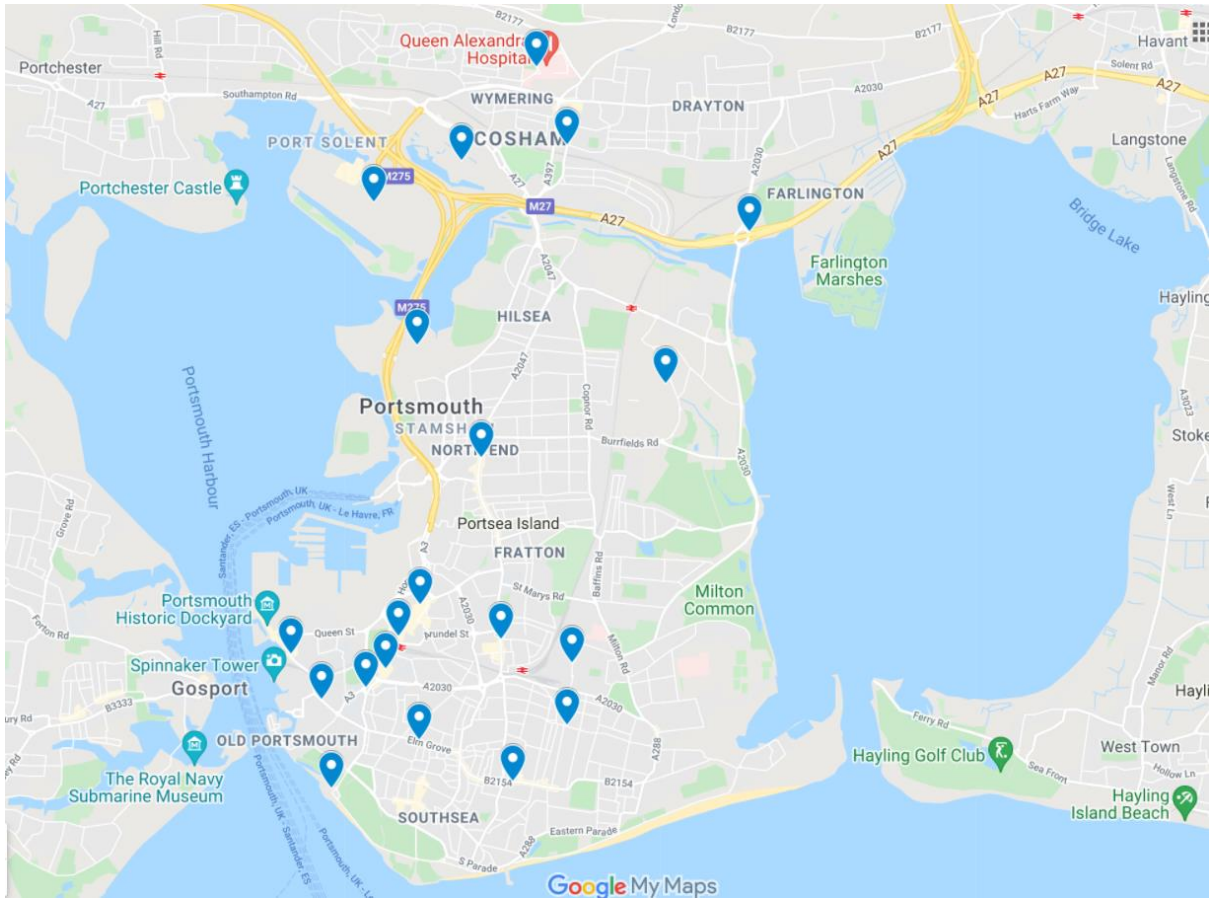
Appendix A- Proposed locations of rapid EV charge points

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Cabinet Report 29/10/2019 Local Air Quality Plan Outline Business Case	https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s24649/Cabinet%2029.10.19-%20Local%20Air%20Quality%20Plan%20OBC%20cover%20report.pdf
Cabinet Report 06/10/2020 Clean Air Zone: Consultation Feedback	https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s28269/Cabinet%206%20Oct%2020%20-%20Clean%20Air%20Zone%20report.pdf
Licensing Committee Report 18/12/20 Amendments to Statement of Licensing Policy	https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s29255/Taxi%20Licensing%20Committee

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