EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

19th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

EPSOM & EWELL TIMES

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Stretching Epsom taxi ULEZ exemption

16 June 2023



Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's **Licensing and Planning Policy Committee** decided Thursday 15th June to put out to public consultation a change to licensing requirements for taxis seeking operating licences from the Council. The change will require applicants' vehicles to meet the ULEZ charge exemption criteria as set by the Mayor of London for the ULEZ zone. That zone is due to be expanded to Epsom and Ewell's London Borough borders (i.e., the boroughs of Sutton and Kingston) on 31st August ths year.

Cllr **Julie Morris** (LibDem College) welcomed any measure that pursued the Council's climate change agenda but was concerned on the devastating impact the requirement may have on some drivers. She gave as an example a driver near retirement who could not afford to change his vehicle. Is there discretion she asked?

An officer said all policies had to have some discretion or legal challenges could be made. However, he did not address the example given but mentioned the large Cadillac limousine he had seen recently. The Mayor of London's ULEZ policy has some exceptions to cater for such special party cab-hires.

Cllr **Steven McCormick** (RA Woodcote and Langley) in the chair stated that the draft policy would be open to amendment in the light of responses to the consultation and the matter would be returning for decision by the committee on a future occasion.

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