

## **Arrangements for dealing with serious matters that may require the immediate revocation of a licence - Implications for decision-making**

The new Department of Transport Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards July 2020 which Councils must have regard to, require that all licensing authorities must consider arrangements for dealing with serious matters that may require the immediate revocation of a licence.

**Table 1 Arrangements for immediate licence revocations by Councils in the Northeast Region**

| <b>Council</b>       | <b>Sub-Committee</b> | <b>Officer Delegation</b>  |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Darlington BC        |                      | Delegated to Licensing Manager who make decision in consultation with the Chair of Licensing. Annual reporting of officer revocations to Licensing Committee.                                |
| Durham CC            | Current              | Proposed/Recommended   |
| Gateshead MBC        |                      | Current – Head of Service has delegated power, but the decision is made in consultation with the Chair of the Regulatory Committee. Reporting of officer revocations to Licensing Committee. |
| Hartlepool BC        |                      |  |
| Middlesbrough CC     |                      |  |
| Newcastle CC         |                      | Delegated to Head of Service who exercises authority following representations from officers. Summary annual data and information reported to Licensing Members.                             |
| North Tyneside MBC   |                      | Delegated to Head of Service who exercises authority following representations from officers.  |
| Redcar and Cleveland |                      | Delegated to Head of Service who exercises authority following representations from officers. Summary annual data and information  |

|                    |  |   |
|--------------------|--|---|
|                    |  | reported to Licensing Members.  |
| South Tyneside MBC |  | Officer delegation – delegation to Licensing Manager with annual updates to Licensing Members.  |
| Stockton BC        |  | Delegated to Licensing Officers who make decision in consultation with the Chair of Licensing. Annual reporting of officer revocations to Licensing Committee.      |
| Sunderland BC      |  | Delegated to Executive Director who exercises authority following representations from officers. Summary annual data and information reported to Licensing Members. |
| Northumberland CC  |  | Delegated to Head of Service who exercises authority following representations from officers. Annual updates to Licensing Members.                                  |

## MINUTES OF THE NESLG MEETING

HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2021 on MS TEAMS

Attendance:

Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Heather Gebbie, Jeff Duffield, Jonathan Bryce, Colin Dobson, Laurence Waldock, Steve Wearing, Craig Rudman, Dave Icceton, Alan Burnett, Stephen Brown

Apologies were received from:

Ian Harrison, Rachael Readman, Tim Hodgkinson, Elaine Rudman, Tracey Johnson, Tasmin Hardy.

**4 Taxis and PH - Arrangements for the immediate revocation of driver's licences.** CR referred to the Department of Transport Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards (July 2020), which requires all licensing authorities to consider arrangements for dealing with serious matters that may require the immediate revocation of a licence. Updates were given.

- Durham have plans to change their delegated powers scheme to enable selected officers to suspend licences when swift action is needed.
- North Tyneside have authorised their HoS to **revoke** licences. A report is given to the HoS.
- Newcastle have a delegated scheme to Officers.
- South Tyneside have authorised their Licensing Manager to suspend licences.
- Redcar & Cleveland have authorised Officers to suspend licences in urgent cases.
- Stockton. Officers can suspend licences in consultation with the Chair
- Sunderland. The Executive Director is authorised to **revoke** licences.
- Northumberland. Have delegated the decision to their HoS
- Darlington. The Licensing Manager can suspend licences in consultation with the Chair
- When Officers have powers to suspend licences, the tendency is to provide members with a summary either annually or periodically
- A follow up discussion followed on the 'right to a fair hearing' Comments were made about drivers being given the opportunity to respond to the facts prior to a decision being made or the requirement to have a 'statement of evidence' in sufficient detail to provide the facts.