

Delegation of Powers in relation to Taxis

1.0 Matter for consideration

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider agreeing to give the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Protection Sub-Committee or in his or her absence the Vice-Chairman) delegated authority to suspend Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver and vehicle licences with immediate effect.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Protection Sub-Committee or in his or her absence the Vice-Chairman) to suspend a licence until the next Public Protection Committee meeting.
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3.0 Information

- 3.1 Currently only the Public Protection Sub-Committee has the power to suspend a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver or vehicle licence. This means that if an incident/information comes to light that requires the driver and/ or the vehicle to be taken off the road in the interests of public safety, this cannot take place until the next Public Protection Sub-Committee meeting or a special meeting has to be convened to consider the matter, both these options mean that public safety could be compromised given the delay before consideration.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Protection Sub-Committee or Vice-Chairman) have delegated authority to suspend a licence until the next Public Protection Sub-Committee meeting if, for instance serious allegations or offences have been reported.

4.0 Financial considerations

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal considerations

- 5.1 The Licensing Committee is the body which agrees the process for the determination of all categories of licensing applications whether by the Committee itself, Licensing Panels, the Public Protection Sub-Committee or by delegation to officers. Section 15.03 of Part 2 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Monitoring Officer may amend the Constitution to reflect changes in legislation or decisions made from time to time by or on behalf of the authority.
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Relevant officer:

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Appendices attached:

None

Background papers:

None

Websites and e-mail links for further information:

None

Glossary:

None