



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING**

**Paul Jones**

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**Proposed Amendment to Taxi Rank Restrictions, Regent Street, Blyth**

**8th December 2016**

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**Purpose of Report**

To consider the consultation regarding proposed amendment to the taxi rank time restrictions at Regent Street, Blyth.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the taxi rank restrictions are amended at Regent Street Blyth to allow taxis 24 hour access / operation. The current restriction is 'Taxis Only 7pm to 7am'.

**Key Issues**

1. County Councillor Nisbet has received several requests from taxi operators to change the current time restrictions at the taxi rank located outside No.38 Regent Street, Blyth (The Blyth and Tyne Hotel), as the current restrictions are having an adverse effect on their business operations.
2. The Scheme is to be funded and supported by Councillor Kath Nisbet.
3. Notwithstanding the results received from the public consultation Councillor Nisbet with the support of Councillor Ledger wishes to proceed with the proposal.

## **Background**

1. Local taxi operators have appealed to Councillor Nisbet to allow them to use the taxi rank during the daytime.
2. The current traffic regulation order limits the use of the taxi rank to night time only (7pm to 7am).
3. This is a well established taxi rank close to the retail hub of Blyth and offers a safe location for picking up fares.

## **Consultation**

1. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise, conducted on the 3rd November 2016. This involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 11 business / residential properties and 24 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
2. The consultation exercise ended on 30th November 2016 and responses were received from three consultees, with none in favour, two against and a further one consultee who were neither for nor against the proposals. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

## **Comments**

1. Councillor Nisbet was notified of the results of the consultation and after examining the objections, confirms she wishes to proceed with the scheme.
2. Councillor Nisbet and Officers will continue to monitor the area after the order has been amended for any adverse affects, listening to the needs of the residents and business owners in the area and taking forward any information received via the Directory of Requests where appropriate.
3. Please note: continuous unloading to business premises is still allowed within the current restrictions on Regent Street i.e. on Double Yellow lines.

## **Recommendations**

1. It is recommended to amend the traffic regulation order at the taxi rank, Regent Street, Blyth from 7pm to 7am to 24 hours. As detailed in Appendix A.

2. The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the canvassing process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

## **File References**

S:\Highways\PROJECT\16\HO16 Members Schemes\HO166142\_BLYTH  
\_Regent St\_NISBET

## **Appendix Index**

Appendix A - Consultation 1 -Copy of Consultation Letter  
Appendix B - Consultation 1 - Summary of Responses

## Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	None
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Funded through the Member's Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Kath Nisbet
<b>Legal</b>	Preparation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)
<b>Procurement</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Amendment to Taxi Rank time restriction
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Scheme is anticipated to improve retail /business opportunities and transport in the area
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	Croft

### Background papers:

None



**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

**Author and Contact Details**

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## DECISION TAKEN

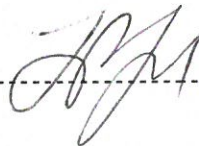
**Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio Holder** Director of Local Services and Housing

**Subject:** Proposed amendment to Taxi Rank Restrictions, Regent Street, Blyth

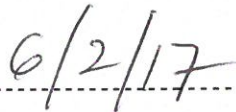
**Consultation** 3 Responses  
0 For  
2 Against  
1 Neither for nor against

**Decision Taken:** To amend the taxi rank restrictions to 24 hours (Taxis Only) as proposed.

Signature of Director/  
officer/Portfolio Holder



**Date**



## Appendix A

# NORTHUMBERLAND

## Northumberland County Council

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• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO166142  
Your Ref:  
Contact: Terry Luck  
Direct Line: 01670 622588

E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Wednesday 3rd November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

### Proposed Amendment to Taxi Rank Restrictions, Regent Street, Blyth

County Councillor Nisbet has received several requests from taxi operators to change the current time restrictions at the taxi rank located outside No. 38 Regents Street, Blyth (The Blyth and Tyne Hotel), as the current restriction is having an adverse effect on their business operations.

Councillor Nisbet has therefore requested that the following restrictions "Taxis Only 7pm – 7am" be changed to "Taxis Only 24 hours" to alleviate these concerns:

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposal to amend the current time restrictions in force at the taxi rank located outside No. 38 Regent Street, Blyth as shown on the attached plan.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and Housing and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

**I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.**

Yours faithfully



Terry Luck  
Programme Officer (Members Small Schemes)







<p><b>Northumberland</b> Northumberland County Council</p>	<p><b>Network Management Information System</b></p>	<p><b>Title:</b> Proposed change to Taxi Rank Restrictions Regent Street, Blyth</p>
<p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Worston Northumberland NE51 2EF Tel: 01670 533000</p>	<p>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey materials with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence no. 100045441 (2003).</p>	<p><b>Dm:</b> AW <b>Date:</b> Nov 16 <b>Scale:</b> NTS</p>



## Appendix B

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	
			Other Relevant Comments
		1	Thank you for your letter dated in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for outpatient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.
	1		There is no justification for the proposed change. There is sufficient taxi parking in Blyth without increasing the parking to 24 hours per day outside No 38. If the taxi parking is increased it will lead to further congestion on an already congested street and increase the potential for an accident.
	1		Please note: During shop hours 9am - 5pm there is not many taxis park in this rank, if any. They pick up and drop of as needed, booked etc. yes we have been parking in this bay during the day along with the solicitor and other businesses. As we always have stock to bring in and to take buffets. also with the dark night.
0	2	1	

