



# Northumberland County Council

## **Revenues and Benefits Service**

### **Caravans / Chalets Council Tax Policy**

## **Introduction**

1. This Policy is in respect of caravans / chalets on commercially rated sites that are occupied as a sole or main residence.
2. A caravan / chalet on a commercially rated site can only be brought into council tax if it is occupied as someone's sole or main residence.
3. Information comes from various sources e.g. the individuals themselves, the Planning Department and anonymous information. Site managers are generally uncooperative when enquiries are made with them.
4. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) will not reduce the rateable value of a commercially rated site because one pitch is de-minimus.

## **Policy Aims**

5. There are consistent guidelines and procedures to follow.
6. To continue with policies at the former District / Borough Councils in Northumberland.
7. To ensure that caravan and chalet owners and occupiers are not taxed twice.

## **Policy**

8. Whenever the Council receives information that a caravan / chalet on a commercially rated site is occupied as a sole or main residence it is reported to the VO to bring it into council tax.
9. Where an individual has signed an agreement with the site owner that they will not occupy a caravan / chalet as their sole or main residence, and it subsequently becomes evident that that is the case, the caravan / chalet will be brought into council tax.
10. The council tax is reduced by any business rates payable by the taxpayer on receipt of an itemised invoice.
11. A Class G exemption (occupation prohibited by law) will be granted for a period when the site has to close due to planning/licensing restrictions.