

Enforcement Update

Executive Portfolio Holder: Angie Singleton
Director: Martin Woods – Service Delivery
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Purpose of the Report

To update members on the work of the licensing enforcement team and the various issues they are currently involved with.

Recommendation

That the report is noted.

Background

Officers carry out a number of enforcement activities under the various legislative provisions that relate to licensing, in particularly with regard to taxi's and private hire drivers/vehicles, street trading and scrap metal dealers. This report seeks to brief members on the current issues that are being dealt with by the enforcement team.

Report Detail

Taxis & Private Hire Vehicles

General

The Enforcement Officer carried out weekly day time checks and several late night checks during the past six months. The checks were carried out in and around the centre of Yeovil and the purpose of them was to ensure compliance with the Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy and Bylaws.

During the previous six months, one taxi and private hire joint agency vehicle enforcement check with the Police, HMRC & DVSA was completed. Advice was given to drivers on various issues.

Monthly taxi checks continue to be carried out at the Pen Mill, Yeovil Junction, Crewkerne and Castle Cary railway stations in order to ensure that vehicles which tend to use the ranks in and around the main towns are also subject to ad hoc inspections.

Thirty six taxi/private hire related complaints were received in the past six months, which resulted in the issuing of five suspension notices, three for vehicle damage, two for tyres at or below minimum tread level.

The Enforcement Officer has issued penalty points on twenty two occasions for more minor issues in line with the Taxi Licensing Policy & Guidance:

- One for using mobile phones whilst driving
- Four for failing to declare DVLA endorsements
- One for failing to display Private Hire side plates correctly

One for failing to notify licensing of change of address
Two for not having two badges whilst working
One for having Private Hire vehicle on a taxi rank
One for smoking in a licensed vehicle
Seven for not using a taximeter
Three for using a dirty vehicle
One for failing to comply with a reasonable request from an authorised officer

Two drivers appeared before the Licensing Sub Committee for accumulating twelve or more points under the Councils penalty points scheme.

Fifty five vehicles were suspended for failing to comply with licensing conditions.

Safeguarding Children

A joint visit to Tattoo Parlours and late night refreshment premises was carried out with a member of staff from The Children's Society to raise awareness surrounding child sexual exploitation and what to look out for.

Street Trading

There are twelve permanent street traders; twenty one consents for casual street trading were issued in the past six months.

Scrap Metal Dealers

Due to police restructuring, the assistance of a dedicated Police Officer to accompany and assist the Enforcement Officer on these inspections is no longer available.

SSDC currently licence fourteen sites and four collectors.

Financial Implications

None

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities and increase economic vitality and prosperity

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: None
