

Enforcement Update

Executive Portfolio Holder: Angie Singleton
Assistant Director: Laurence Willis, Environment
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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 particular with regard to taxi's and private hire drivers/vehicles and scrap metal dealers. This report seeks to brief members on the current issues that are being dealt with by the enforcement officer.

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.

Several excessively dirty vehicles were sent to be cleaned inside and out, drivers have also been reminded that they must have two identical drivers badges, one badge must be worn by the driver and one must be visible at all times to the passenger.

During the previous six months, one taxi and private hire joint agency vehicle enforcement check with the Police was completed. Advice was given to drivers on various issues, further dates have been arranged with the police throughout the next three months.

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.

Twenty five taxi/private hire related complaints were received in the past six months, which resulted in the issuing of five stop/prohibition notices, three for vehicle damage and sixty one suspension notices for failure to provide a current interim MOT.

The Enforcement Officer has issued penalty points for more minor issues in line with the Taxi Licensing Policy & Guidance. Nine drivers have received penalty points for various offences including,

leaving an unattended vehicle on a taxi rank, failure to notify the licensing department of a change of address.

Two drivers were issued fixed penalty notices with penalty points for smoking in a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle.

Street Trading

There are fifteen permanent street traders; over fifty consents for casual street trading were issued in the past six months.

Scrap Metal Dealers

The Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out compliance inspections on all scrap metal collectors and scrap metal site licence holders to ensure they are compliant with the requirements of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act.

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 ten sites and two 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
