

Licensing Committee – 11th February 2014

6. Enforcement Update

Executive Portfolio Holder: Peter Seib, Regulatory and Democratic Services
Strategic Director: Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director Operations & Customer Focus
Assistant Director: Laurence Willis, Assistant Director Environment
Lead Officer: Colin Chown, Licensing Enforcement Officer
Contact Details: colin.chown@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935)462135

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 vehicles. This report seeks to brief members on the current issues that are being dealt with by the Enforcement Team.

Report Detail

Taxis

General

During the previous six months, two dates for taxi private hire vehicle enforcement checks with the police and other agencies were arranged and one was carried out, with advice given to two drivers on tyre tread issues.

During daily enforcement checks, several vehicles have had to be sent to be cleaned inside and out, when completed drivers have been reminded of the drivers handbook condition that vehicle exterior and interior shall be kept reasonably clean at all times. Several drivers had to be 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.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer, Police, HMRC, Dept. of Works & Pensions and VOSA carried out a joint enforcement day at an area wide operation at Bristol International Airport with several prohibition notices being issued. No notices were issued to SSDC licensed drivers.

Further dates have been arranged with the police throughout the next three months. Weekly daytime checks and several late night checks were carried out throughout the past six months on taxis and private hire vehicles in and around the centre of Yeovil to ensure compliance with the our Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy and Bylaws.

Monthly taxi checks are carried out at the Pen Mill, Yeovil Junction 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.

We have received twenty eight taxi/private hire related complaints in the past six months, which resulted in the issuing of five stop/prohibition notices, four for vehicle damage and two for vehicle cleanliness; all six notices were issues to hackney carriage vehicles.

Street Trading

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

Iminster Carnival 05/10/2013

Eleven traders with consent paid and consent given in advance.

Approximately fifteen pedlars challenged. Two without a current permit were told to cease trading and to leave the area, which they did.

Chard Carnival 12/10/2013

Thirteen traders with consent paid and consent given in advance, no traders without prior consent.

Approximately twenty pedlars challenged. Two without permit told to cease trading and to leave the area, which they both did.

Scrap Metal Dealers & Motor Salvage Operators

The Licensing Enforcement Officer, Police, HMRC, Dept. of Works & Pensions, Gas Safety and VOSA carried out a joint enforcement day to ensure that all operators dealing in scrap metal are registered as scrap metal dealers if required to do so, and were compliant with the requirements of the act.

A number of vehicles were checked and all that needed to be registered were compliant.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 has now replaced the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 and the Motor Salvage Operators Regulations 2002 from 1st October 2013.

Fifteen sites and eleven collectors have applied for and received the appropriate licence for their type of operation.

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*
