

## **Enforcement Update**

*Executive Portfolio Holder:* Peter Gubbins  
*Assistant Director:* Laurence Willis - Environment  
*Lead Officer:* Colin Chown, Licensing Enforcement Officer  
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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 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.

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, two taxi and private hire joint agency vehicle enforcement checks with the Police were 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.

Thirty five taxi/private hire related complaints were received in the past six months, which resulted in the issuing of five stop/prohibition notices, two for vehicle damage and three for failure to provide proof of insurance.

The Enforcement Officer has now started (as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015) to issue 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 and allowing a Hackney Carriage vehicle to stand in a position, not being a hackney carriage stand, to suggest it was plying for hire.

### **Street Trading**

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

### **Scrap Metal Dealers**

The licensing enforcement officer carried out bi-monthly compliance inspections on all scrap metal collectors and three monthly inspections for 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 seventeen sites and twelve 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

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