

Licensing Committee – 08 November 2010

7. Licensing Enforcement Update

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister
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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, particularly with regard to taxi's and alcohol licensing. This report seeks to brief members on the current issues that are being dealt with by the enforcement team.

Report Detail

Taxis

Enforcement officers, Police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) inspectorate have carried out regular taxi checks throughout the year with vehicles being directed to the Lufton depot for in depth VOSA and Licensing inspections

This has resulted in 2 drivers being given advice regarding lights. Two stop notices have been issued: one relating to a stoplight not working and the other for having no first aid kit within the vehicle. One VOSA prohibition notice was served for defective rear tyres.

Further taxi checks were carried out at various schools in joint operations with VOSA and Somerset County Council, all vehicles checked were satisfactory.

Weekly daytime checks and several late night checks were carried out throughout the year on taxis in and around the centre of Yeovil to ensure compliance with our 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 that do not tend to use the ranks in and around the main towns are also subject to ad hoc inspections.

We have received thirty two taxi/private hire related complaints to date.

Scrap Metal Dealers & Motor Salvage Operators

Working with the Police, enforcement officers carried out a number of inspections at registered scrap metal dealers and motor salvage operators as part of a force wide

Operation Relentless, I am pleased to report that all registered premises were in compliance with the requirements of the act.

Street Trading

Thirteen permanent street traders have applied for and been granted consent to trade, two traders have not applied and legal action is proceeding. Over fifty casual street traders have applied for and been granted consent to trade on individual days including the following at local carnivals.

Ilminster Carnival 02/10/2010

Fourteen traders with consent paid and consent given in advance. Four traders without consent paid when challenged and consent given.

Approximately thirty pedlars were challenged. Three without permits were told to cease trading and to pack up and leave the area, which they all did.

Chard Carnival 09/10/2010

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

Approximately thirty pedlars were challenged. Two without permits were told to cease trading and to pack up and leave the area, which they both did.

Castle Cary Carnival 16/10/2010

Two traders without consent paid when challenged and consent given.

Seven pedlars were challenged, two without permit were told to cease trading and leave the area, which they both did.

Licensing Act 2003

As part of the inspection programme, questionnaires were sent to two hundred and sixty three low risk premises of which two hundred and thirty were returned, the thirty three that were not returned will now receive an inspection to ensure compliance.

Regular inspections of licensed premises are being conducted throughout the year.

Complaints

We dealt with numerous complaints regarding animal welfare, street collections, hackney carriage/private hire drivers, gambling, body piercing/tattooing, smoking in the workplace and licensed premises. So far this year we received over sixty-four complaints that required investigation.

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*
