

Licensing Committee – 8th October 2013

7. Enforcement Update

<i>Strategic Director:</i>	<i>Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director Operations & Customer Focus</i>
<i>Assistant Director:</i>	<i>Laurence Willis, Assistant Director Environment</i>
<i>Service Manager:</i>	<i>Nigel Marston, Licensing Manager</i>
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	<i>Colin Chown, Licensing Enforcement Officer</i>
<i>Contact Details:</i>	<i>colin.chown@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935)462135</i>

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, several dates for taxi private hire vehicle enforcement checks with the police and other agencies were arranged and carried out, VOSA inspectors issuing four immediate prohibition notices, Two for tyres below the legal level, one for dipped light not working and one for power steering failure with advice given to a further two drivers on tyre tread issues and one driver given advice regarding the number of items on windscreen obscuring drivers vision.

During daily enforcement checks, several vehicles have had to be sent to be cleaned inside and out, when completed drivers have been reminded of 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.

Further dates have been arranged throughout the next three months including an area wide operation at Bristol International Airport.

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 thirty taxi/private hire related complaints in the past six months, which resulted in the issuing of six 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

Scrap Metal Dealers & Motor Salvage Operators

The Licensing Enforcement Officer and the Police carried out joint inspections at all premises that are registered as scrap metal dealers, all the premises were compliant with the requirements of the Act.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 will start to replace the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 and the Motor Salvage Operators Regulations 2002 from 1st October 2013.

Provisions of the new Act include the following:

- The requirement for metal dealers to satisfy their local authority that they are a legitimate trader;
- All sellers of metal must provide verifiable ID at point of sale which is recorded and retained by the dealer;
- A cashless offence will apply to all scrap metal dealers including 'mobile/itinerant collectors' who conduct house to house collections;
- There will be two types of licence available: a site licence or a collector's licence;
- There will be a single national publicly available register of all scrap metal dealers.

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
