

Enforcement Update

Executive Portfolio Holder: Peter Gubbins, Licensing Portfolio Holder
Asst Director: Laurence Willis, Assistant Director - 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 particularly 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

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.

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.

Sixty three taxi/private hire related complaints were received in the past six months, which resulted in the issuing of seven stop/prohibition notices, three for vehicle damage, two for tyres at or below minimum tread level and two for failure to provide proof of insurance.

The Enforcement Officer has issued penalty points on thirty two occasions for more minor issues in line with the Taxi Licensing Policy & Guidance:-

- Eight for failing to notify Licensing of driving endorsements.
- Ten for failing to declare endorsements on application for renewal of drivers badge.

- Three for leaving vehicle unattended on a taxi rank.
- Three for failing to display rear plate correctly.
- Two for failing to notify licensing of change of address.
- Two for failing to display a roof sign on a Hackney Carriage Vehicle
- One for failing to notify Licensing of an accident involving a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.
- One for not having badges whilst working.

Street Trading

There are seven 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
