

Committee: Licensing & Environmental Health

Date:

Title: Enforcement Update

10 February 2021

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Item for decision:
No

Summary

1.1. This Enforcement Update report is to inform the Committee of the enforcement activities carried out by Licensing Officers during the period of 30 September 2020 and 28 January 2021.

Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Financial Implications

3.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

4.1. None

Impact

5.1.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6.1. Proactive enforcement in particular has inevitably been limited during this period due to the restrictions from the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. However, compliance and enforcement activity has been maintained throughout and new, effective partnership working with, for example; Police forces, County Councils, DVSA and colleagues at other Licensing Authorities has been achieved and set a basis for stronger compliance and enforcement in the months and years ahead. Examples of these alongside general statistics are provided for Members within this report.

6.2. A total of 31 complaints have been received during this period.

6.3. In respect of licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers, there have been 6 licence revocations and 8 licence suspensions. These are broken down as follows;

- 2 revocations were as a result of DVLA offences.
- 4 revocations were as a result of Police information that presented a public safety risk.
- All 6 revocations were made under the delegated authority of the Licensing Manager and Licensing & Environmental Health Committee Chair
- 2 suspensions were as a result of the driver no longer meeting the required DVLA Group 2 Medical standard.
- 6 suspensions were as a result of Medical and/or DBS certificates not being received from the driver by the required due date.
- 4 suspensions were lifted for drivers who were previously suspended before this period following receipt of Medical and/or DBS certificates.

6.4. Licensing and Environmental Health Officers have with the assistance of Essex Police conducted licensed premises visits to ensure Covid-19 compliance. This has been ongoing since the initial re-openings on 4 July 2020.

- 49 licensed premises were visited by Licensing Officers during the period of this report. These were conducted on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- There were no serious breaches identified, nor was any Police interference required. Where minor shortcomings were identified the Licensing Officers educated the premises staff on the latest guidance.

6.5. On 10 December 2020 Licensing Officers in partnership with DVSA and Essex Police colleagues conducted taxi and private hire driver and

vehicle inspections at Stansted Airport. As expected the numbers of vehicles present were extremely low, but this was a positive initiative to start up and we intend to carry out further operations in the future.

6.6. On 14 December 2020 Licensing Officers conducted Private Hire Operator inspections at Endeavour House, Stansted Airport.

- 3 Operators were visited and records were evaluated to ensure compliance with the legislation and conditions.
- Each of the 3 Operators were requested to present 3 predetermined licensed vehicles for inspection. Of those 9 vehicles, 1 was found to have a defective light, but following instruction to immediately fix the issue, evidence was presented later the same day of the light working.

6.7. On 11 December 2020 Licensing Officers participated in a large scale nighttime Essex Police operation in Chelmsford city center in partnership with Chelmsford Licensing colleagues to flag down and carry out routine compliance inspections on licensed vehicles and drivers. This became the first opportunity for Chelmsford & Uttlesford Licensing Officers to use their recent shared delegated authority powers to inspect one another's licensed drivers and vehicles. This was highly successful and we intend to expand this to other neighboring Authorities in due course in order to carry out similar operations.

- 4 Uttlesford drivers/vehicles were flagged down and inspected. No issues were identified. Any inspections on Chelmsford drivers/vehicles were recorded and passed to colleagues for their records.