

Committee: Licensing & Environmental Health

Date:

Title: Enforcement Update

02 March 2022

Report Author: Jamie Livermore, Senior Licensing & Compliance Officer, 01799 510326

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 01 November 2021 to 11 February 2022.

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. During December, all members of the Licensing Team took part in the annual Essex Police anti-drink driving campaign by visiting licensed premises in Uttlesford to offer guidance, advice and to hand out posters for display. Though the visits were predominantly for purposes of the campaign, the opportunity was taken to hand out drug swipes for the detection of cocaine and premises were asked to display small A5 sized posters in their toilets of a charity organization affiliated to Essex Police relating to domestic abuse awareness, so that any potential victim is discreetly provided with the necessary contact information for help. The Licensing Team achieved a total of 64 premises located throughout all areas of the district and it was very well received.

6.2. In the enforcement report from the previous Committee, reference was made to the reboot of Pubwatch schemes throughout Uttlesford, which is a joint venture between the Council and Police. Progress has been relatively slow due to the Christmas period and the surge in Coronavirus, however we are able to advise that the first PubWatch meeting was held in Stansted Mountfitchet on 1 December 2021, and as the representative from the Licensing Team present on that occasion it was excellent to see how well planned and conducted it was. The next is due in late February. The PubWatch for Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden are both expected to be initiated in the coming month. By the time of the next Committee, Licensing Officers should be in a position to confirm to Members that all three are up and running and funding for a new app for use by members of each PubWatch, known as DISC, should be secured.

6.3. Away from Premises, on 15 November, the Licensing Team also supported Essex Police in their catalytic converter theft awareness campaign by making joint visits to our three scrap metal yards.

6.4. On 18 November 2021 Licensing Officers conducted roadside checks of licensed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles at Stansted Airport. The next is due on 22 February.

6.5. There have been 9 Private Hire Operator inspections conducted during this period and any minor issues found were dealt with appropriately.

6.6. In respect of licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers, there has been 1 licence revocation and 5 licence suspensions. These are broken down as follows;

- 1 revocation was following receipt of a Common Law Police Disclosure which declared that a licensed driver had been arrested for multiple offences. Due to the nature of the offences and the required timescales, the revocation was made with immediate effect under delegated powers by the Chair of the Licensing & Environmental Health Committee and Licensing Manager.
- 4 suspensions were as a result of Medical and/or DBS certificates not being received from the driver by the required date, or for identified medical conditions.

- 1 suspension was due to a driver who had failed to provide evidence of having taken a driving proficiency test in line with the Council's suitability policy for drivers with an accumulation of 9 or more points on their DVLA licence. The driver has since successfully completed the proficiency test and as a result had their suspension lifted.

6.7. In respect of licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, there have been 11 licence suspensions.

- 8 vehicles were suspended following the failure of their compliance tests, all of which have now been retested and passed. 3 vehicles were suspended following accidents and associated damage, 1 of which has now been repaired.

6.8. A total of 24 complaints have been received during this period. These are broken down as follows;

- 20 complaints relating to drivers. The complaints mostly relate to either driving standards or driver behavior, with most being dealt with at Officer level.
- 4 complaints relating to vehicles. These consist of a licence plate not being displayed appropriately, parking matters, and an alleged failure to stop after an accident.

6.9. Licensing Officers have also visited a premises in Stebbing to meet new owners who took over at Christmas, and a premises in Saffron Walden following a complaint received by the Council's Environmental Services team from neighboring properties who had alleged noise nuisance and anti-social behavior. There was also a complaint made relating to a convenience shop in Saffron Walden that was alleged to have made underage sales of alcohol. Licensing Officers visited with Essex Police Licensing colleagues, and while no evidence could be found of the sales, the premises staff were given Challenge 25 posters for display and advice offered with the refusal register.