

Committee: Licensing & Environmental Health

Date:

Title: Enforcement & Compliance Update

21 January 2025

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Item for decision:
No

Summary

1.1. This Enforcement Update report is to inform the Committee of the compliance and enforcement activities carried out by Licensing Officers during the period of 1 September 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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. This report outlines the statistics and general activities of the compliance and enforcement team during the latest period of the 1 September 2024 to 31 December 2024.

6.2. There were an approximate total of 43 proactive taxi and private hire related visits to a range of sites including schools, Stansted Airport, Audley End Railway station as well as towns in and out of the Uttlesford District. This amounted to 41 checks of drivers and 103 checks of vehicles licensed by UDC, along with 30 drivers and vehicles from other Authorities when carried out as part of multi-agency and cross partnership operations.

6.3. Of the checks carried out on drivers, there were a range of lower-level compliance issues identified including the failure to display ID and unacceptable dress – for example open toed shoes.

6.4. Of the checks carried out on vehicles, there were again a range of lower-level compliance issues identified which includes failure to display signage and/or failure to display signage in the appropriate place.

6.5. The compliance issued referenced above did not warrant further action beyond verbal and/or written warnings, though will be considered in the event of further breaches.

6.6. One vehicle was suspended with immediate effect for having been found with a tyre displaying a tread depth below the legal limit. A second vehicle was also identified for the same issue, however, as it was not licensed by UDC it was referred to the appropriate Licensing Team for further action.

6.7. Of the 7 visits made to Stansted Airport, 5 were dedicated ‘touting’ operations in partnership with TfL and Police colleagues. 10 individuals were found to be suspected of touting, one of whom is licensed by UDC and an investigation remains in progress at the time of writing.

6.8. Further work has been undertaken on advertisements for illegal airport transfers and during this period an additional 3 were identified by Officers. Each of these were contacted and have since removed the adverts from display.

6.9. With regards to licensed premises, further Pubwatch meetings have taken place for the Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet areas and have had regular attendance from Licensing and Community Safety Officers. Premises attendance has fluctuated, and further work will be carried out into the new year to increase participation as these are considered to provide key channels of communication between the licensed trade, the Licensing Authority and the Police.

6.10. In respect of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, there have been 4 licence revocations, 3 licence refusals, and 107 licence suspensions. These are broken down as follows;

- 2 of the revocations were made by Licensing Panel on the 1 October and 4 November, whilst the other 2 were made using delegated powers of the Acting Licensing Manager in conjunction with the Chair & Vice-Chair of the Licensing & EH Committee. At the time of writing, the revocation made by the Licensing Panel on the 1 October is subject to an appeal to the Magistrates' Court.
- Of the 107 suspensions, 72 (67%) were as a result of failure to maintain an active subscription to the DBS Update Service. The others ranged from medical issues to new information on the DBS certificate.

6.11. In respect of licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, there have been 87 licence suspensions.

- 63 (72%) vehicles were suspended following either the failure of their compliance tests or having had not taken a compliance test by the required deadline. The others ranged from accident damage to failure to provide current insurance certificates.

6.12. A total of 36 complaints have been received during this period. These are broken down as follows;

- 32 complaints relating to drivers. The majority of these were found to be unsubstantiated, and those which were resulted in minor action dealt with at Officer level.
- 4 complaints relating to a licensed premises. This was because of an event which took place as part of Christmas festivities where music was played outside contrary to the licence permissions. The licence holder was reminded of their conditions and amended the plans for the latter New Year's Eve event. This will be monitored ongoing.