

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

11 November 2022

TITLE:	SMDC Enforcement Activity Update
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Mike Worthington - Portfolio Holder for Finance
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update members in relation to the enforcement activity undertaken within the Licensing Section.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 In the period February 2022 to October 2022 the Licensing service has engaged in a number of enforcement actions. These activities have involved reactive responses to complaints and intelligence received from the public and partner agencies as well as proactive compliance checks. It is pleasing to report that the Licensing Section has noted a good level of compliance overall.
- 3.2 Officers seek to encourage licence holders to conduct their activity in a safe manner, maintain good standards and to comply with the law. Officers have to exercise considerable discretion when approaching individual licence holders. Licensees are often anxious to comply with the law and for such cases the officer's role will be to provide guidance and advice. However, in carrying out their functions officers are authorised with a wide range of powers and may, for example, require entry at all reasonable times or require the production of certain documents.
- 3.3 If, on enquiry, officers find evidence that the law is being broken and enforcement is required, they can respond in various ways. They may instruct or warn by letter; revoke or suspend a licence; and, where the circumstances warrant it, they may

formally caution or prosecute without prior warnings and without recourse to alternative sanctions. Officers will have due regard to the relevant Enforcement Policies when determining the most appropriate course of action.

- 3.4 Below is a summary of enforcement activity carried out during this period. The figures shown below include the contacts made with the Taxi Drivers and Operators, all contacts have been in relation to the renewal process. Licences to drive hackney carriages and private hire vehicles need to be renewed annually or three yearly. The Council sends one reminder out to our drivers 60 days before their licence is due to expire, advising of any additional checks including DBS and Medical assessments, MOT requirements etc.

Area	Applications Received / letters sent out	Processed	Rejected
Charity Collections House to House	11	9	2
Charity Collections Street Collections	16	16	0
Pavement Licenses	7	7 Renewals	0
Personal Alcohol Licenses	59	42 new 17 amendments	0
Road Closure Orders	48	48	0
Small Society Lottery Chase up letters	14	14	0
Small Society Lottery Renewal Letters	86	86	0
Taxi Drivers	9	9	0
Taxi Hackney Vehicles	36	36	0
Taxi Operators	2	2	0
Taxi Private Hire Vehicles	25	25	0
TENS with Alcohol	187	172	15
TENS Late with Alcohol	62	56	6
TENS without Alcohol	5	5	0
TENs Late without Alcohol	0	0	0

- 3.5 In addition to the above, the licensing team have attended 3 Pub watch meetings, carried out 4 specific premises inspections, arranged and attended 5 Joint Inspections with Partner Agencies (Police, Fire, Trading Standards etc), a further 3 site visits with Police & EHO regarding complaints, attended and arranged 2 x Safety Advisory Group meetings (4 events discussed).

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The appropriate enforcement of licensing legislation in partnership with relevant agencies is a key tool in assuring the safety of our residents and visitors

5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)

Web Links and Background Papers

All papers in relation to the activity covered in the report.

Contact details

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