

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Licensing & Regulatory Committee**

**29 November 2019**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Licensing Enforcement Activity</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Bowen - Portfolio Holder for Communities</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>(All Wards)</b>

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To update the members on the recent enforcement activity carried out by the Licensing section.

**2. Recommendation**

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

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 In the period February 2019 to July 2019 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.

- 3.2 Officers will 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 in our experience 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 officers find evidence 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 will 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 The details of the enforcement and other activities carried out during this period are as set out below:

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Enforcement Activity</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Letters to Taxi Drivers for Renewals</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Letters to Taxi Drivers regarding Safeguarding</b>
<b>8 Granted 2 Rejected</b>	<b>House to House Collections</b>
<b>6 Granted 1 Rejected</b>	<b>Street Collection Permits Issues</b>
<b>3 Granted 1 In Progress</b>	<b>Road Closures (From 30<sup>th</sup> September)</b>
<b>77</b>	<b>Temporary Event Notices Issued with Alcohol</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Late Temporary Event Notices issued with Alcohol</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Late Temporary Event Notice issued without Alcohol</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Licensing Officer &amp; Police Joint Visits</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Licensing Officer, Fire &amp; Rescue joint visits</b>

3.5 The primary focus of enforcement work to date has been on ensuring that the law in relation to all relevant licensing legislation and guidance is properly observed. In considering the focus of this activity the Licensing Service has had reference to:

- Those premises/vehicles against which complaints have been received.
- Those premises who do not hold a licence but where intelligence suggests licensable activity is taking place.

3.6 A variety of breaches were identified in the course of these activities but were addressed by a voluntary change of behaviour on the part of the licence holder or via specific action by the Licensing Service and partners. In none of the cases was further legal action or the application of criminal sanction necessary.

3.7 During this period no complaints have been received relating to smoking on licensed premises.

- As part of the (Health Act 2006) and associated Regulations premises have to comply with signage requirements. All premises visited are now compliant with displaying the required signage.
- No fixed penalty tickets in relation to offences of witnessed or reported smoking in premises have been issued.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)**

The appropriate enforcement of licensing legislation in partnership with relevant agencies is a key tool in assuring the maintenance of community safety.

### **4.2 Workforce**

None arise directly from this report.

### **4.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

### **4.4 Financial Considerations**

The discharge of inspection and enforcement functions have been factored into previous budget calculations.

### **4.5 Legal**

The requirements of the various licensing legislation places a duty on license holders under the criminal law. In enforcing the conditions relating to this legislation the Licensing Service has powers to undertake prosecutions relevant to the offences identified.

### **4.6 Sustainability**

None arise directly from this report.

### **4.7 Internal and External Consultation**

None arise directly from this report.

### **4.8 Risk Assessment**

None arising from the report.

Mark Trillo

**Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer**

## **Contact Details**

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