

REPORT FOR DECISION

Agenda Item	
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DECISION OF:	LICENSING & SAFETY PANEL
DATE:	25th JULY 2019
SUBJECT:	OPERATIONAL REPORT
REPORT FROM:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)
CONTACT OFFICER:	M BRIDGE
TYPE OF DECISION:	N/A – Report for information only
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is in the public domain
SUMMARY:	A report to advise members on operational issues within the licensing service.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Wards Affected:	N/A
Scrutiny Interest:	Internal Scrutiny Panel

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The report advises Members on operational issues within the licensing service.

2.0 CLEAN AIR CONVERSATION

2.1 Transport for Greater Manchester have undertaken a “conversation” on Air Quality which ended the 30th June 2019.

The results of the “conversation” are now being analysed by Transport for Greater Manchester.

3.0 COMMON MINIMUM STANDARDS

3.1 On the 3rd June 2019, the Licensing Unit Manager, Councillor Rafiq and Councillor Black attended a meeting along with the other 9 Greater Manchester authorities with Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester. A presentation was given to everyone that attended on the proposals, the presentation was well received.

- 3.2 The Licensing Unit Manager has attended further meetings in relation to this issue. The briefing note on the proposals was circulated to the members of the Council week commencing 17th June 2019 and was made available to the trade on the 24th June 2019. Current holders of the hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences, private hire operators and trade representatives were contacted by the Licensing Service to advise them that there will be two drop in sessions on the 24th and 28th June respectively held in the Main Hall, Elizabethan Suite.
- 3.3 The briefing sessions were very well attended by approximately 260 licence holders. The presentation was delivered by the Licensing Unit Manager and the Head of Service for Trading Standards and Licensing. Opportunities were given for the attendees to ask questions on the proposals. Concerns were raised about the proposed age policy, proposed colour of vehicles and what funding was available to help them to change their vehicles to achieve compliance.
- 3.4 A report regarding the proposed Common Minimum Standards consultation is to be presented to members of the panel later this evening.
- 3.5 The Licensing Service have been made aware the Clean Air Conversation received 3300 responses across Greater Manchester. In respect of Bury the figures were as follows:-
- Bury residents formed 7.7% of the domestic respondents – This is about in the middle of the responses.
 - Bury businesses accounted for 11.3% of the Greater Manchester commercial respondents – This was the second highest response rate in GM.
 - In Bury and across GM we had some lively discussions with Taxi and Private Hire owners and drivers and over 62% of business respondents were in that category.

4.0 CONCERTS AT HEATON PARK

- 4.1 Officers of the Trading Standards and Licensing Service have been working on the 7th, 8th 9th and 15th June at the concerts held at Heaton Park. Officers were involved in the enforcement of street trading legislation and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire legislation.
- 4.2 Prior to the concerts taking place officers visited all off licences and public houses to raise awareness about their responsibilities during the concert.

5.0 SEIZURE OF TOBACCO

- 5.1 A specially trained tobacco detection dog has helped trading standards & licensing enforcement officers discover 36400 cigarettes and 12.85kg of tobacco worth over £25000.

The illegal items were seized during inspection visits in Bury, conducted by Bury Council Trading Standards and licensing enforcement officers alongside with GMP partnership officer today Wednesday 5th June 2019.

Pippa a Springer spaniel, provided by Wagtail UK helped detect the concealed stashes of tobacco at 2 premises in Bury.

The seizure included a mixture of counterfeit and non-duty paid illicit tobacco which cannot be legally sold in the UK. The visits were conducted to co-incide with the Greater Manchester Keep It Out campaign. The campaign included trading standards and licensing officers conducting outreach visits to licensed premises in the borough to educate about illegal tobacco and encourage the reporting of it. Officers also accompanied a mobile education unit on Bury Market today (Wednesday 5th June) highlighting the issues surrounding illicit tobacco to shoppers.

6.0 LICENSING HEARINGS PANEL

- 6.1 On the 8th July 2019, a Licensing Hearings Panel took place to consider an application for a personal licence. The applicant had a relevant offence under Schedule 4 of the Licensing Act 2003. The offence was in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle whilst unfit through drink or drugs (drink). Members considered the representation from Greater Manchester Police and the applicant's comments and decided to grant the personal licence.

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