

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 June 2018

Briefing Note: Performance Management Report December 2018

1 Background

- 1.1 At a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, the Performance Management Report for December 2017 was considered. PP07% hackney carriage and private hire vehicles inspected which comply with regulations.
- 1.2 Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are required to be both roadworthy and to meet the requirements of the Council's Licence conditions.
- 1.3 Working with colleagues from the Police and the DVSA, the licensing enforcement officers carry out frequent checks on vehicle to determine compliance with both legal and licensing requirements

2 Update

- 2.1 Table 1 below summarises the results of vehicle checks carried out in the period from October – December 2017.

Table 1

month	Total number of checks carried out	Number of checks where vehicle defect found	Number of vehicles fully compliant with licence conditions
October 2017	70	4	39
November 2017	29	0	23

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December 2017	91	7	55
Total for quarter	190	11	117

- 2.2 Immediate action is taken to address vehicle defects with vehicles being taken off the road until the defects are remedied.
- 2.3 Appropriate licensing enforcement action is also taken in these cases as it is vital that public safety is not compromised by the use of vehicles which are not road worthy
- 2.4 Licence conditions can be breached by defects in vehicles such as inadequate tread depth and defective lights. The standards required of licensed taxi and private hire vehicles are higher than those for general vehicles – for examples licensed vehicles are required to have a minimum tread depth of 2 mm compared with the 1.6mm MOT standard.
- 2.5 A significant number of the breaches recorded in the vehicle checks relate to the failure to carry relevant documentation such as insurance certificates and copies of condition booklets. Whilst these are technical breaches of the licence conditions and would result in the driver receiving a warning, they do not pose a direct risk to public safety.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Following the reorganisation of the licensing team in 2016 there has been an increased focus on enforcement. Phased enforcement action is taken where breaches of licence conditions are detected on vehicle checks ranging from verbal warnings to immediate suspension for vehicles with safety defects.
- 3.2 Statistical trends will continue to be monitored over the next year to assess the effectiveness of enforcement action taken.

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