

Communities Scrutiny Panel

DATE	08/09/2022
REPORT OF	Sharon Wroot, Executive Director, Environment, Economy, and Resources
SUBJECT	Update on Multi Agency Days of Action
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

Delivering outcome focused Enforcement through targeted days of action contributes to the Councils key outcomes of enjoying good health and wellbeing, benefitting from a strong local economy and living in a safe environment by a range of regulatory and enforcement issues.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report gives a summary of the outcomes from the Multi Agency Days of Action (MADAO) conducted in July 2022. Further details and analysis are provided in Appendix 1 to this report.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

This report aims to update the panel on the enforcement outputs undertaken and seeks the panels views on repeating these activities on a quarterly basis and to highlight any further areas of concern for further scrutiny.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 During July 2022, three days of action were delivered organised by the council's Regulation and Enforcement Services, supported by the following partners: -

- NELC Regulation and Enforcement Services
- NELC Home Options and Development Team.
- Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency,
- EQUANS,
- Humberside Police and
- LA Support

1.2 These days of action were targeted and focused days around three areas:

- Taxi Licensing Roadside checks
- Town Centre Day of Action
- Environmental Multi Agency Day of action

Taxi Licensing roadside checks

1.3 The Council's Licensing team are responsible for issuing licenses to new and continuing taxi drivers and to carry out checks on the vehicles to ensure that they are roadworthy and meet the required standards.

- 1.4 The team licenses Hackney Carriage Vehicles that can pick up unarranged fares from the street. These have a taxi roof sign and a white licence plate on the rear bumper. They also license Private hire vehicles, which are not permitted to pick up from the street without being pre-booked. These have a half moon door sign on the front two doors which states, 'advanced bookings only' and a yellow licence plate on the rear bumper.
- 1.5 Roadside checks are delivered to ensure that the vehicle safety and driver conditions can be assessed.

Town Centre Day of Action

- 1.6 Following community reports of nuisance and anti-social behaviour, as part of ASB Awareness Week, which ran from 18th to 24th July 2022, a day of targeted high-visibility patrols in Grimsby town centre and Freeman Street were delivered
- 1.7 This action was part of an ongoing effort to tackle issues within the Town Centre such as parking offences, breaches against the Public Space Protection Order including no cycling and environmental littering offences and rough sleepers.

Environmental Multi Agency Day of action

- 1.8 This operation conducted in Scartho Road, Grimsby followed on from similar operations in October 2021 and April 2022 and is part of the ongoing work that the NELC Environmental Enforcement team undertaken to tackle unlawful waste carriers and those not using waste transfer notes.
- 1.9 It is considered that Illegal waste carriers are responsible for some of the fly tipping that occurs within the borough and that these roadside stops of commercial vehicles and engagement with the drivers will help improve awareness and tackle those who are non-compliant.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 These Days of action are considered a success as they send a clear message to the community that the council and partners are undertaking checks and taking action against offenders in order to ensure they are operating safely and legally.
- 2.2 However, increased case work from these activities can impact on ability and timeliness of regular reports coming through the teams.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Enforcement action against offenders overall is largely viewed as positive action and received favourably by the community. However, for such activities there will always be potential for both positive and negative reputational implications for the council.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The initiatives outlined within the report are to be funded through revenue budgets

5 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report outlines action taken against adult offenders only. Juveniles will not be subjected to criminal sanctions.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Ultimately all resourcing decisions taken by the Council impact upon the environment. For this reason, the Council must take climate change and environmental issues into account in the establishment of its financial plans. The Council's financial strategy looks towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and supporting and developing the green economy and infrastructure. This includes recognising and realising the economic and social benefits of a high-quality environment.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Section 151 Officer.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer).

9 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Strategic Workforce Lead.

10 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 These Multi action days of action will be carried out across the borough so affecting all wards.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None

12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Carolina Borgstrom
Assistant Director of Environment
North East Lincolnshire Council
Tel 01472 326207

Sharon Wroot,
Executive Director, Environment, Economy, and Resources

Appendix 1

1. Taxi Licensing Roadside Checks – Friday 8th July 2022

Purpose/Aims

The aim of evening roadside spot checks is to ensure roadworthiness of the vehicle such as insurance, tyres, lights and vehicle tax and to ensure that drivers comply with driving license and taxi licensing requirements.

For certain defects or non-compliances, officers can suspend vehicles licenses from operation

Partners Involved

- NELC Licensing Officers
- Humberside Police

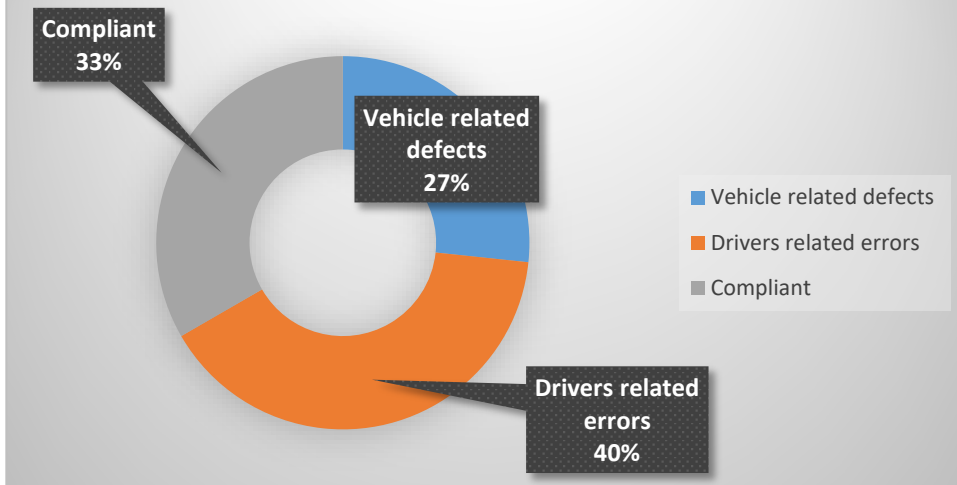
Outcomes

During the evening operation, 15 random roadside spot check inspections on local taxis were conducted.

The following issues were found during the inspections

- One vehicle was immediately suspended for not displaying the vehicle licence plate - the vehicle has since had a follow-up check by the licensing team and the plate is now displayed
- One vehicle was showing as SORN – this has now been rectified and the vehicle taxed
- One vehicle had one magnetic door sign - these must be fixed to the vehicle so that they cannot be taken off and used by a person who is not licensed, or fall off when travelling at speed
- One vehicle had two magnetic door signs - again, these must be fixed to the vehicle so that they cannot be taken off and used by a person who is not licensed, or fall off when travelling at speed
- One driver was given advice as they were looking in their wallet whilst driving
- Three drivers were given advice regarding their speed
- One vehicle had a side light out
- One driver without an ID Badge

Outcome of Checks



2. Town Centre Day of Action – 23rd July 2022

Purpose/Aims

The aim of the operation was as follows:

1. Showing a unified approach between partners to tackle anti-social behaviour around the Town Centre and Freeman Street. Promoting joint working across teams increasing knowledge and awareness between Officers.
2. To tackle those responsible for anti-social behaviour, including cycling and other environmental crimes in the Town Centres of Victoria Street and Freeman Street.
3. To educate youth offenders around the PSPO restrictions and other environmental crimes in the Town Centres.
4. To reduce the numbers of adult offenders who do not provide details by showing a unified approach between NELC and Humberside Police to tackle anti-social behaviour around the Town Centres.
5. To identify any homelessness issues and provide support where available
6. For Parking Civil Enforcement Officers to tackle any parking contraventions

Partners Involved

- Humberside Police
- EQUANS Parking Enforcement Team
- LA Support
- NELC Home Options Team

Outcomes



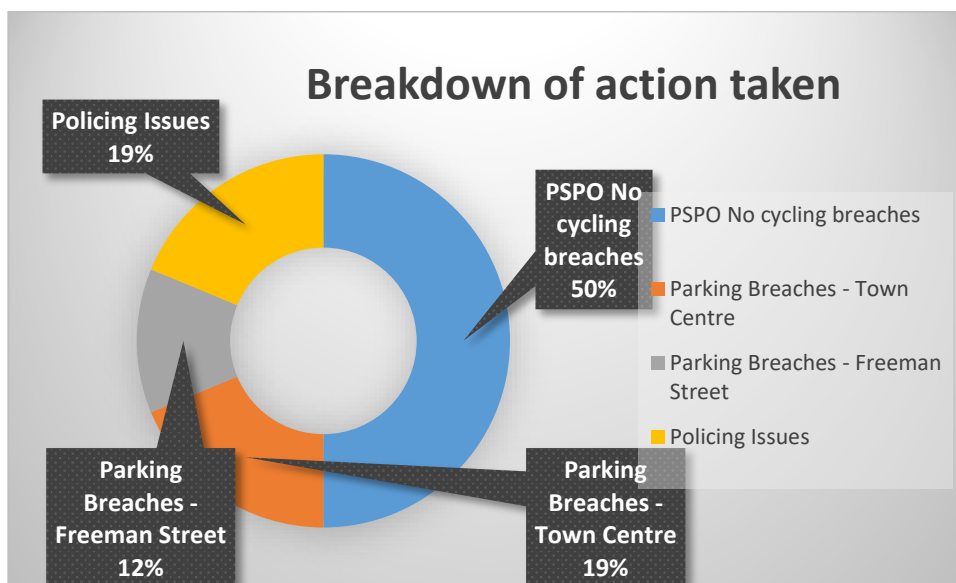
During the day, the following outcomes were achieved:

Grimsby Town Centre

Eight fixed-penalty notices were issued to people cycling through the pedestrianised area on Victoria Street and three penalty charge notices were issued to vehicles parked illegally.

Freeman Street

Three fixed-penalty notices were issued to people for dropping litter and two penalty charge notices were issued to vehicles parked illegally.



3. Environmental Multi Action Day of Action - Tuesday 26th July 2022

Purpose/Aims

As part of this operation, Humberside Police identified vehicles and escorted them to a Designated Inspection Area off Scartho Road. The DVSA inspected vehicles for risk of non-compliance with roadworthiness standards and mechanical defects. The councils Environmental Enforcement team that checked those carrying waste were registered with the Environment Agency for waste carrier and if appropriate were carrying waste transfer notes

The council licensing team were also checking Scrap Metal dealers for compliance

Partners Involved

- NELC Environmental Enforcement and Licensing Teams
- Humberside Police
- Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)

Outcomes



The following outcomes were achieved:

NELC

- Environmental Enforcement officers engaged with 32 businesses
- These resulted in 14 Fixed penalty notices being issued
 - 12 x Failure to have Waste Carriers License
 - 12 x Failure to provide Waste Transfer Notes
- 1 x Pending Investigation

Humberside Police

- A total of 15 tickets issued for offences
 - 13 x Insecure loads.
 - 1 x mobile phone.
 - 1 x driving otherwise in accordance with a licence.
 - 1 x Scooter seized because the rider was on the pavement and did not have an up-to-date license.

DVSA

- 10 x Prohibition offences identified in total. These were
 - 4 x Defective tyres.
 - 4 x Insecure load.
 - 1 x Defective Lights
 - 1 x Excess weight.

