

Safer City Partnership Strategy Group Friday 14 November 2014

Public Protection Service (Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards) update.

Economic Crime – The City of London Trading Standards Service working in partnership

- The City of London Trading Standards Service is currently undertaking two large investigations, Operation Curie and Operation Wade with the assistance of the City of London Police, the Metropolitan Police and the Tri-Regional Scambusters Team; a third, Operation Addams is being currently reviewed.
- The investigations are into the fraudulent selling of alternative investment commodities such as diamonds, gold, wine and carbon credits. Currently there are over 500 victims involved and over £1 million in consumer detriment.
- Arrests, interviews under PACE caution and the seizure of evidence have been recently carried out in Essex in connection with Operation Addams with assistance from the City of London Police and Essex Police.
- Operation Rosa, a proactive initiative targeting criminality associated with Mail Forwarding Businesses across Greater London is currently suspended and being wound up, pending a final funding decision from the National Trading Standards Board.
- The City's Trading Standards service is continuing to take part in Operation Broadway, a joint operation with the City of London Police, the Metropolitan Police, National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, and the Financial Control Authority.
- This operation is addressing the problem of "boiler rooms" who perpetrate these frauds and which are based at serviced and virtual offices across London's business districts of Mayfair, the City and Canary Wharf. The operation continues to be successful so far and a full report will be submitted to the next Port Health & Environmental Services and Police Committees.

Street Trading

- Street Trading [Policy](#) agreed internally and approved by Planning and Transportation Committee on July 30.
- Street trading licences issued for temporary trading for Smithfield Nocturne and Tour de France events as reported previously.
- No other current applications although anticipate possible Christmas Market application for Royal Exchange and one other area, as yet to be confirmed, and potentially Ice Cream Traders for New Year's Eve.
- The Enforcement Policy on Street Trading incorporates the revised Port Health & Public Protection Statement on Enforcement approved by the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee in September 2014.
- A further (3rd) Ice Cream Van was seized and retained for 2 weeks before receiving an undertaking from the trader not to continue trading in the City.
- Currently very limited street trading activity in City, mainly ad hoc ice cream sales on London Bridge to facilitate swift get away for the illegal trader.

- One operation carried with City Police to identify the 2 nut sellers and warn operating near Millennium Bridge on a Sunday.
- An agreed programme of operations on street trading with City Police partners based on intelligence gathering is to be agreed but this is not extensive at present due to low level of street trading activity in the City.
- Further operations are anticipated for nut sellers operating near Millennium Bridge with City Police in November onwards.

Late Night Levy

- Levy came into effect on October 1 2014
- 70% of levy to go to City Police for activities involving improving the impact of Licensing on the night time economy.
- Letters were sent to all licensed premises (including those 293 currently affected by the levy of approx. 750 premises licence holders offering free variation to change hours to remove impact of levy.
- 64 variations requested by closing date September 6 of anticipated (30%) 87.
- As a result of the above (and the numbers achieving the Safety Thirst Award, see below) it is anticipated there will be an increase in the sums available to City Police and the City for dealing with the Night Time Economy raised from the Levy.
- A report to Licensing Committee has been requested after 6 months of operation and accounts to be subject of public report after 12 months of operation (October 2015).

Safety Thirst

- Changes made to improve scheme in line with Code of Good Practice for Licensing in City.
- Letters were sent to all licensed premises inviting applications.
- It was agreed that 30% discount to late night levy would be given to members of the scheme who achieved membership of this year's Safety Thirst Award.
- 87 applications were received initially but there was a significant failure and drop-out rate.
- The October 8 Award Ceremony was held in the Livery Hall. 29 awards were made. this year (of which 25 are eligible for the Levy discount) and a further 26 premises, having applied late, are in the process of being inspected or providing evidence of meeting relevant criteria and will be finalised by the end of November. The majority of these premises applied in order to try and achieve the 30% discount for the Levy.
- A review of the scheme is to be held internally and further improvements incorporated prior to seeking applicants for the 2015 awards in January.

Noise Service

- Applicants for Considerate Contractors Scheme Award 2015 were reviewed with DBE (who run the main award) to integrate any concerns regarding environmental impacts of the sites/streetworks.

- The City's Code of Practice for Deconstruction and Construction is being reviewed over the next six months to update it in relation to changes in the industry since the 6th edition was published in May 2013, and any changes will be the subject of subsequent consultation.
- The Out of Hours Service dealt with 194 complaints from July to October and achieved a response (visit) time, normally well above the target of 60 minutes (the agreed performance indicator), in 94% of cases, and often within 30 minutes.
- Out of Hours service training, through mentoring and shadowing programmes with M&CP Pollution Team Officers continued for Street Environment Officers (SEOs) from DBE who have provided evening, night and weekend first response for the City noise and other environmental concerns since April 2014.
- Training for Environmental Health Officers and SEOs was organised on 21 October by M&CP and included other City Department Officers concerning the new powers available through the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 which came into force in October this year. Reports on delegations are currently going to various Committees.
- SCP is to facilitate the City's response to the new 'Community Trigger' under the above Act which can be sought by individuals affected by repeated incidents, and the Pollution Team will be represented on the panel considering case reviews as they arise.

Jon Aaverns
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3 October 2014