

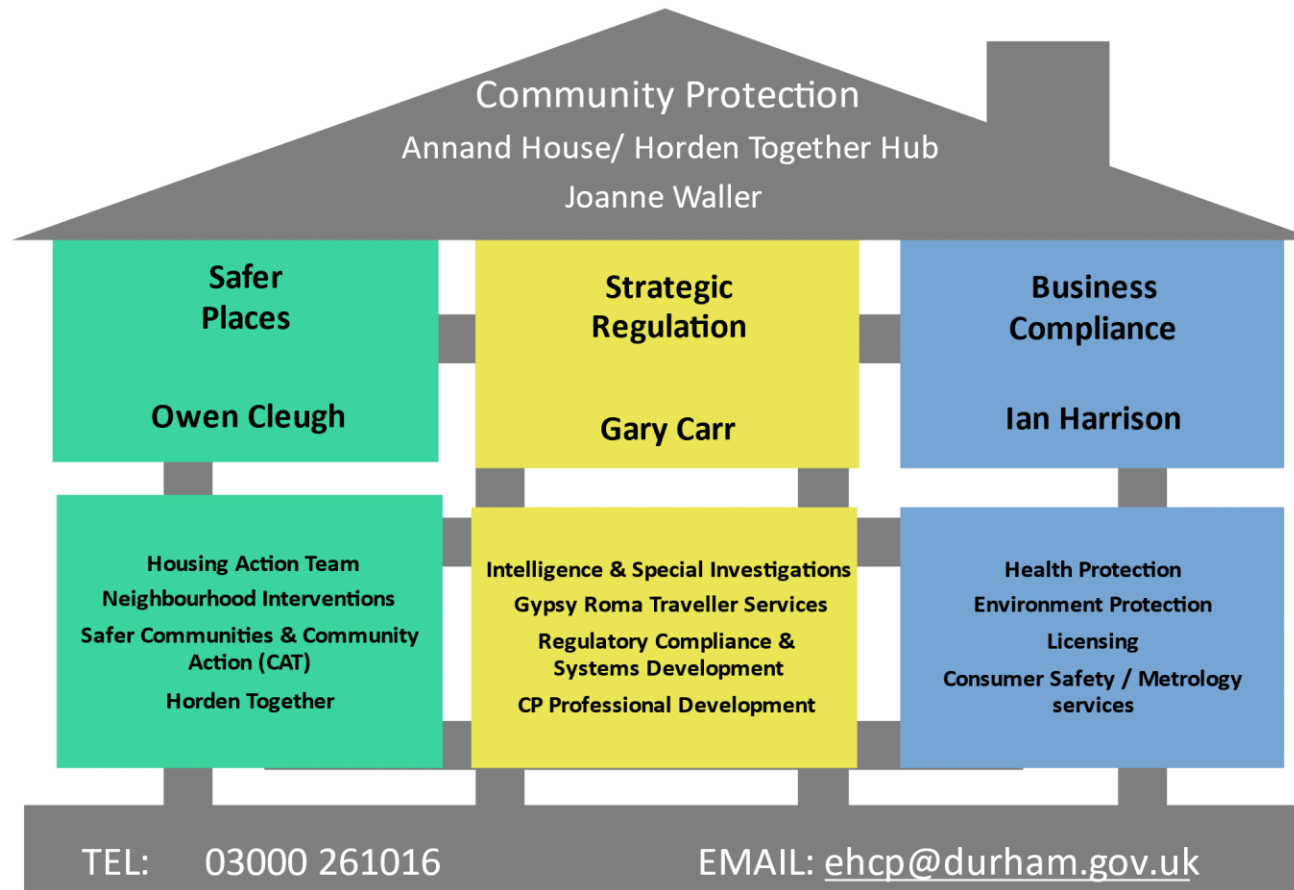
Appendix 2

# Community Protection Services Business Compliance

Ian Harrison, Business Compliance Strategic Manager



# Community Protection Services



# Business Compliance

- Trading Standards – Rogue traders, underage sales, product safety, animal health, welfare and licensing
- Health Protection – Food hygiene and food standards, Health & Safety at work, Safety Advisory Group
- Licensing – Taxis, Alcohol, Entertainment, Gambling
- Environmental Protection – Air Quality, Pollution, Private Water Supplies

# Illicit Tobacco and Illegal Vapes

- Illicit Tobacco – Long standing problem
  - Sold to anyone, of any age
  - No health warnings
  - Potentially more unsafe than genuine cigarettes
  - No duty/taxi paid
  - Linked to Organised Crime
- Illegal Vapes – Virtually brand new problem
  - Sold to anyone, of any age
  - Potentially unsafe
  - Linked to Organised Crime



# Fob Operated Ceiling



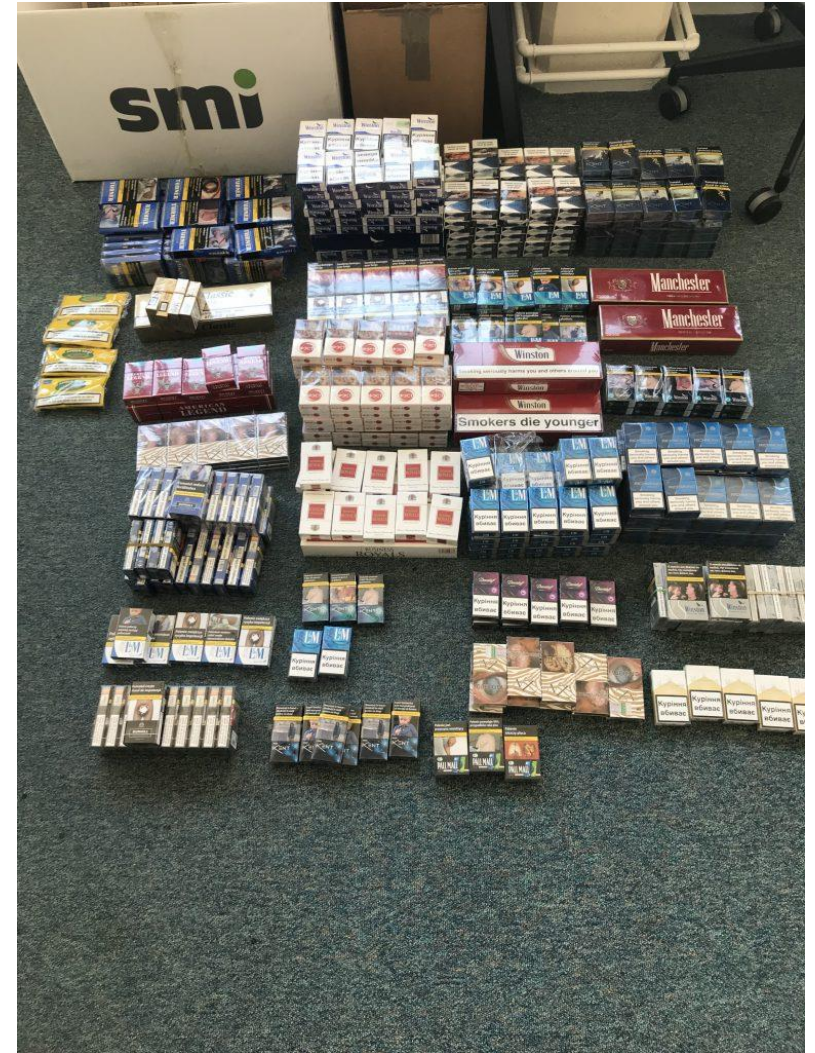
Electromagnetic  
false wall

# Illicit Tobacco Concealment



# Tobacco & Vapes Bill

- Ban the sale of tobacco to anyone born after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009
- Introduce licensing regime for retail sale of tobacco & vapes
- Power to regulate the look and taste of vapes to stop them being child appealing
- (The Government's intention is also to ban disposable vapes from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025)
- Trading Standards will be the enforcement body for much of this





# What We Do

- Work with Police, HMRC, DCC Licensing, Border Force & Others
- 77 test purchase attempts this year
- 8 failures – 7 vapes, 1 alcohol
- Prosecute sellers
- Licence Reviews
- Closure Orders



# 'Fake Always Breaks'

- Fake vehicle parts imports exceed £1 billion per year
- Attractive option for garages as parts are cheaper
- Fake parts can be both inferior quality and/or dangerous
- Trading Standards Officers are visiting garages to advise and inform



# Fake Always Breaks

- [Toyota - Genuine vs Counterfeit \(Airbag\) - YouTube](#)

# Taxi Enforcement

- 1170 hackney carriages and private hire vehicles
- 1282 licensed drivers
- Earlier this year, licensing officers worked with volunteers to assess disability awareness
- Two taxi drivers failed and were prosecuted – one being order to pay £528 and the other £410



# Taxi Enforcement

- In December, taxi licensing officers will be carrying out a joint operation with Durham Police and DVSA to check taxi vehicles are safe



# Natasha's Law

- Food team is working with manufacturers and retailers to ensure food is correctly allergen marked
- In September 2024, Durham company Lebaneat was prosecuted and convicted
- Ordered to pay £28k in fines and costs



# New Food Standards Delivery Model

- Food Standards Agency are introducing a new 'Food Standards Delivery Model'
- 'Food Standards' - quality, composition, labelling
- Changes the way local authorities must risk assess food standards compliance



# Air Quality

- An Air Quality Action Plan has been developed for Durham City and is going to Defra this month
- 23 actions proposed
- Progress will be carefully monitored





# Animal Health & Feed

- 2970 farm premises
- 1988 feed hygiene premises
- Premises are risk assessed and inspected



# Challenges for 2025

- Licensing Act fees have not increased since 2004. If fees had risen with inflation DCC could expect another £100k income per year
- Representations are being made to ensure a new tobacco licensing regime doesn't end up the same way
- New licensing system for funeral directors?
- New Food Standards Delivery Model – Will be a significant drain on resources but with a longer term benefit

• Thank you. Any Questions?