

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – MARCH 2014**  
**Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 29 May 2014**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in March 2014. Details of these are outlined in the following sections of the report.

**2. TAXI/ PRIVATE HIRE CAR CHECKS**

- 2.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer routinely carries out spot checks of taxis and private hire car vehicles to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

- 2.2 The checks take place at various taxi ranks and other places within the district. The checks consist of a range of items including the following:-

- Id badge/ Licence
- Plates displayed
- Tariff Sheet
- Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Taximeter seal
- No commercial adverts displayed on the vehicle
- No smoking signs displayed
- Taxi roof sign
- Condition of vehicle

- 2.3 In March 2014, 38 taxis and 9 private hire cars were inspected by the Licensing Enforcement Officer. The majority of these checks were found to be in order with the exception of the following matter:-

Taxi Operator 46 – The rear taxi plate was displayed in the window.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 5.

Taxi Operator 482 – The taximeter was running slow.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 32.

Taxi Driver 1828 – The driver was found not to be carrying his taxi driver licence.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 2.

- 2.4 The operators and driver were written to and requested to attend the licensing offices and provide evidence that the matters detailed in paragraph 2.3 had been attended to. They have now fully complied.

### **3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS**

- 3.1 During March 2014, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 22 civic licensing compliance checks/enquiries.

- 3.2 The compliance checks/enquiries involved the following civic activities:-

- Late Hours Catering – seven routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licenceholder details were correct and that the licence was being displayed properly. One enquiry was carried out in relation to premises that had changed ownership and this resulted in an application for a new late hours catering licence being submitted.
- Second Hand Dealers – eleven routine checks were carried out to ensure that the licenceholder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. Two checks established that two of the second hand car dealers had ceased trading.
- Metal Dealer – one enquiry was carried out into premises buying gold and other precious metals. An application form was subsequently issued to the owner of the premises.
- Skin Piercing & Tattooing – one check of licensed premises was carried out to ensure that the current licenceholder details were correct, that the licence was being properly displayed and to scrutinise the register of customers who have received tattoos/ piercings.
- Public Entertainment – one check of licensed premises was carried out and a certificate of compliance relating to the posting of notice was collected.

- 3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 2 knowledge tests involving 6 candidates. 11 site notice checks were also carried out.

### **4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS**

- 4.1 A complaint was received from a female who alleged that the interior of a taxi had been smelling strongly of smoke. The driver attended at the office and the taxi was inspected and found to be in order. The driver claimed that he had been standing outside his taxi having a smoke prior to the female passenger entering the taxi and that any smell of smoke was probably from his clothing.

- 4.2 A complaint was received from a female wheelchair user alleging that a female taxi driver in the taxi rank Newmarket Street, Falkirk, had refused to take her and her husband as a hire. The female taxi driver was interviewed and claimed that as her taxi is not wheelchair accessible she only asked if a wheelchair accessible taxi, which was in the rank, would not be more suitable. She added that she has previously managed to take wheelchair hires where the wheelchair has been folded into the boot of the taxi. She stated that the couple had moved off before she could say anything else to them. The female taxi driver was written to and reminded of the terms and conditions of her licence and to behave in a civil and proper manner at all times when operating her taxi.
- 4.3 The complainants were advised of the outcomes and were satisfied with the courses of action undertaken.

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

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**Chief Governance Officer**  
**Date: 20 May 2014**

**Contact Officer: Bryan Douglas, Licensing Co-ordinator (telephone 501262)**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None