

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2013/14**

Organisation Name	Falkirk Towns Ltd on behalf of the Falkirk BID / Delivers
Project	Specialized Security Taxi Marshalling Service
Agreement Dates	1 st April 2013 to 31 st March 2014
Name of Lead Officer	Alice Keenan

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Falkirk Towns Ltd are funded through Falkirk Council's Community Safety Budget to provide a taxi marshalling service in Falkirk Town Centre with the aim of reducing the potential for alcohol related disorder and supporting the Council's priority of delivering Safer Communities. Falkirk Towns Ltd on behalf of the Falkirk BID commission Specialized Security to provide taxi marshalling at the Newmarket Street taxi rank on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the year and over the festive period as part of the Safer Streets Campaign.

The aim of the taxi marshalling initiative is to manage and defuse any potential opportunities for alcohol fuelled disorder at peak times within Falkirk Town Centre and consequently enhance the image of Falkirk Town Centre as a safe and enjoyable place to visit at night time.

During 2013/14, the provision has been extended to include taxi marshalling at the Meadow Street taxi rank from July 2013 to March 2014 on Saturday evenings. The area around the Storm Nightclub in Meadow Street has repeatedly been identified as an area of concern with regard to alcohol related disorder. The inclusion of the Meadow street taxi rank has been a positive contribution to reducing alcohol related disorder in this area.

List of Agreed Outcomes

- Reducing the fear of crime;
- Supporting the delivery of safer communities;
- Preserving and restoring public order; and
- Continuing to increase public reassurance

Why Service/Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council

Taxi marshalling is funded externally as it requires a commissioned and accredited service with expertise in stewarding and managing volumes of users of the night time economy to defuse potential disorder due to the influence of alcohol. This is not a service that could be provided in-house. Specialized Security is an SIA (Security Industry Authority) approved contractor. The Taxi Marshalling Service alongside Street Pastors promotes a positive image of the Falkirk night time economy throughout the year.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMESSummary of Key Achievements

The taxi marshalling service continues to provide a valuable service in managing the night time economy and defusing any potential alcohol fuelled disorder. It was reported in 2013/14 that there were 55,716 users of the Newmarket Street taxi rank and 10,937 for the Meadow Street taxi rank, totalling 66,653 users of the taxi marshalling service throughout the year. The initiative receives regular positive feedback from Police Scotland, pubs & clubs and their patrons. It contributes to the delivery of Safer Communities alongside the Safe Base activity at the festive period and identified weekends.

Police statistics show a decrease in crimes within the Safe Zone area since the start of the Safer Streets initiative in 2007. Reported crimes during the festive period have dropped from 78 in 2007 to 47 in 2013.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

Reduced funding levels in the future would be a key challenge in maintaining this service. Meadow Street funding has been approved from underspends within the Community Safety budget during 2013/14. The continuance of this development is at risk due to lack of security of funding.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The Project consistently raises the profile of Falkirk as a safe place for patrons to enjoy its night time economy; provides patrons with reassurance that they can enjoy a night out safely; taxi marshalling contributes to reduced alcohol related disorder on Friday and Saturday nights; reduces the fear of crime and consequently contributes to the Council priority of Safer Communities.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Bi-monthly as part of the Safer Streets Steering Group meetings.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEWTotal Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

£20,000 for Newmarket Street (52weeks on Fri & Sat nights) & Meadow Street (26 weeks Sat only)

£3,146 For Meadow Street (Jan-March 2014, Sat nights)

£4,930 for Safe Base initiative

Total Council contribution: £28,706

Falkirk Bid contribution: £16,000

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

For year end 31 March 2013.

Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation

The main risk would be a reduction in funding levels in the future. This year (2013/2014) the taxi marshalling initiative is able to provide taxi marshalling at Meadow Street on Saturday evenings over the year in addition to the taxi marshalling service at Newmarket Street on Friday and Saturdays throughout the year.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low to medium risk, due to low level of reserves as a percentage of turnover. See attached Annual Risk and Financial Assessment dated 13th June 2014.

D CONCLUSIONSSummary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

The taxi marshalling service continues to deliver a valuable service in promoting the Falkirk Town Centre as a safe place to have a night out in. The initiative has proved a successful and popular tool in managing and minimising any potential opportunities for alcohol fuelled disorder at peak times within the town centre. Public opinion of the taxi marshalling service is that it provides an essential service and that it has changed people's perception of Falkirk for the better.

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<u>Name</u>	Alice Keenan
<u>Designation</u>	Corporate Policy Officer
<u>Date</u>	1 st August 2014