

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – NOVEMBER 2014**  
**Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 14 January 2015**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in November 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/ Taxi-Private Hire Licence
- DVLA driving 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 November 2014, 28 taxis and 5 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 matters:-

Taxi Operator 284 – the taximeter was found to be running 4 minutes slow.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 32.

Private Hire Car Operator 008 – The operator name sticker was missing from the vehicle.

This is a breach of private hire car licence condition number 14.

Taxi Driver 1745 – The driver was found not to be carrying his taxi driver licence or identification badge.

This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.

Taxi Drivers 1887 and 1945 – Both were found not to be carrying their taxi driver licences.

This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.

The operators and drivers were written to and requested to attend the licensing offices and provide evidence that the matter detailed had been attended to. They have now fully complied.

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

3.1 During November 2014, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 21 civic licensing compliance checks/enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – six routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. All were found to be in order. Two enquiries were also carried out with new businesses and applications were subsequently received. One enquiry was carried out with a business which had let its licence lapse and it was established that it no longer sold second hand goods.
- Late Hours Catering – one routine check of licensed premises was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being displayed properly. Everything was found to be in order.
- Window Cleaners – one window cleaner operating for a company was checked and found to be operating without a licence. An enquiry made to the company revealed that the person had been sent at short notice to cover their licensed operative. A warning letter was sent to the company.
- Skin Piercing – three routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the register of business was being kept up to date. All premises were found to be fully compliant.
- Street Trader – six routine checks of licensed street traders (two ice cream traders; one fish van; and three novelty toy sales) were carried out and found to be operating in accordance with their licence.

- 3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 3 knowledge tests involving 4 candidates. 11 site notice checks were also carried out.

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

- 4.1 A complaint was received from a male alleging that a taxi driver had passed very close to him whilst he had been riding his bicycle on the A9 at Larbert. The complainer also added that when he had subsequently spoken to the taxi driver about the matter the driver had been rude and dismissive of him. The taxi driver was traced and interviewed and was adamant that he had given the cyclist plenty of room when passing him. He also stated that at no time had he been rude or dismissive in his dealings with the complainer. No action was taken in respect of the complaint.
- 4.2 A complaint was received from a female alleging that a taxi driver picking up a hire had parked his taxi in a position that had prevented her from accessing her driveway. She had also added that when she had asked him to move he had been verbally abusive to her. The driver was traced and interviewed and stated that if the complainer had moved her vehicle slightly, as requested by him, she would have been able to access her driveway. He admitted that he had been verbally abusive at the time and that he regretted this and wished to pass on his apologies to the complainer. The driver was issued with a written warning regarding his conduct and reminded to behave in a civil and proper manner at all times when operating his taxi.
- 4.3 A complaint was received from a male ice cream trader alleging that another ice cream trader had confronted him while he was operating on his run and had behaved in a threatening and abusive manner towards him. The matter was also reported to the Police and is currently being investigated.
- 4.4 The complainants were advised of the outcome and 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: 6 January 2015**

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

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None