

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – DECEMBER 2014
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 18 February 2015
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in December 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 December 2014, 37 taxis and 1 private hire car 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 046 – was found not to be carrying a first aid kit.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 9.

Private Operator 448 – the operator name sticker was missing from the vehicle.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 13.

Both operators 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 in this respect.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

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

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

- Second Hand Dealers – 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 sales was being kept up to date. All were found to be in order. One enquiry was also carried out with a householder following an allegation of unlicensed used car sales. The householder was interviewed and there was no evidence of unlicensed trading.
- Late Hours Catering – seven routine checks of licensed premises was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being displayed properly. One enquiry was also carried out, which established that the premises concerned closed at 11pm and did not therefore require a licence.
- Window Cleaners – one routine check of a licensed window cleaner was carried out. He was found to be operating in accordance with his licence.
- Skin Piercing – two 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. Both premises were found to be operating as per the licence conditions.
- Street Trader – three routine checks of licensed street traders (one fish van; and two novelty toy sales) were carried out and found to be operating in accordance with their licence. An enquiry involving an unlicensed trader was undertaken (selling paintball activity) and the trader was advised of the requirement for a licence and to cease trading.
- Booking Office – three routine checks were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the booking register was being kept up to date. Everything was found to be in order.

3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 4 knowledge tests involving 7 candidates. 5 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

No complaints were received during the month

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

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Chief Governance Officer

Date: 9 February 2015

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None