

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – AUGUST 2015**  
**Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 30 September 2015**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in August 2015. 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 August 2015, 31 taxis 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 drivers 48 and 1139 – were found not to be carrying their taxi driver licences.  
This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.

Taxi operator 388 – no identification sticker on the first aid kit and no licence holder name sticker displayed on the vehicle.  
This is a breach of condition number 9 and 13.

The drivers were advised to attend at the licensing offices and produce their taxi driver licences for inspection. The operator also attended at the licensing office with his vehicle. They have now fully complied.

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

3.1 During August 2015, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 23 civic licensing compliance checks and enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – ten routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being properly displayed and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. All were found to be in order. Two other enquiries were also carried out and an application form was issued.
- Late Hours Catering – four routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being properly displayed. All were found to be in order.
- Skin Piercing – two routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence and notices were being properly displayed. All were found to be in order. Two enquiries were also carried out and an application form was issued.
- Street Trader – two routine checks of licensed street traders (a balloon seller and an opera singer selling CD's) were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct. All were found to be in order.
- Window Cleaner – one routine check of a licensed window cleaner carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct. All was found to be in order.

3.4 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 4 knowledge tests involving 7 candidates. 10 site notice checks were also carried out.

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

A complaint was received from a female person relating to the return of a deposit paid for a camper van to a licensed second hand dealer in Grangemouth. The allegation related to the company keeping 10% of the deposit to cover administration costs. A joint visit was carried out with a Trading Standards Officer and it was ascertained that the correct procedure had been carried out by the company.

A complaint was received from a male cyclist alleging that a taxi driver had pulled out in front of him without checking that the road had been clear to do so and that the taxi driver had almost collided with him. The alleged incident having occurred on Redding Road near to Westquarter. The cyclist provided still photographs of the incident taken from a helmet camera video recording that he had. The taxi driver concerned was traced and interviewed in relation to the complaint and claimed that he had checked

that the roadway was clear before moving off in his taxi and that he felt that he had done nothing wrong. The complainer was updated on the outcome of the enquiry and also advised that the allegation of careless driving was something that the Police would deal with.

A complaint was received from a Councillor relating to a private hire car driver who had parked his vehicle on yellow zigzag lines outside a Primary School in Grangemouth. The Councillor had spoken to the driver at the time, but wished to make a formal complaint. The driver was traced and interviewed in relation to the matter and claimed that he had been attending for a pre-booked hire in the street. However, due to the number of parked cars at the time he had pulled in to let an oncoming car pass and had then noticed his hire approaching him. The Councillor had then appeared and remonstrated with him about where he had stopped. The driver accepted that he should not have stopped where he did and stated that he was not in the habit of parking illegally.

A complaint was received from a female alleging that her 17 year old daughter and her friend of the same age had been dropped off by a taxi driver in Grangemouth Road, Bo'ness, and forced to make their own way home. This had occurred in the early hours of the morning after they had informed the taxi driver that they did not have sufficient funds to cover the taxi fare. Enquiries into the matter are ongoing.

The complainants were advised of the outcomes and were satisfied with the course 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: 17 September 2015**

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

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None