

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – NOVEMBER 2015**  
**Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 13 January 2016**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in November 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 without permission
- No smoking signs displayed
- Taxi roof sign
- Condition of vehicle

- 2.3 In November 2015, 35 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 066 – failing to display the front plate.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 5.

Taxi Operator 157 – taximeter was found to be running 6 minutes slow.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 32.

Taxi Operator 164 – the operator name sticker was missing.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 13.

Taxi Operator 300 – the taximeter seal was found to be broken.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 31.

Taxi Operator 435 – there was no inside window stickers fitted.  
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 5.

Taxi Driver 1921 – was found not to be carrying his taxi driver licence.  
This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.

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

- 2.4 During the evening of Friday 6 November 2015, a joint taxi operation with the Police took place. The event targeted taxis and private hire cars operating in the Falkirk town centre area. A dozen cars were inspected and there were no major issues as a result. One taxi had a defective near side brake light which was repaired shortly thereafter.

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

- 3.1 During November 2015, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 22 civic licensing compliance checks and enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – fourteen 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.
- 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.
- Street Trader – one routine check of a licensed street trader (snack van) was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being carried. Everything was found to be in order.
- Booking Office - one routine check was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed and that the booking register was being kept up to date. Everything was found to be in order.
- Skin Piercing – one enquiry was carried out with a new acupuncture business and an application form was subsequently sent out.
- Public Entertainment – one enquiry was carried out with a new trampoline centre and an application form was sent out.

3.3 These checks consist of a range of items including the following:-

- Licence type
- Licence holder details
- Day to day manager details (if applicable)
- Id badge/ Licence
- Register check (if applicable)
- Vehicle details (if applicable)
- Occupants details

3.4 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 4 knowledge tests involving 10 candidates. 3 site notice checks were also carried out.

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

A complaint was received from a Grangemouth Councillor regarding a taxi parked on double yellow lines on a street corner near to Beancross Primary School as the school was going in. The taxi driver when spoken to about where he was parked and asked for his number stated that it was on the back of his taxi. A photograph of where he was parked was then taken and the driver is alleged to have left his taxi and been verbally abusive. The taxi driver was subsequently interviewed and was contrite over what had happened and added that he was not in the habit of parking illegally and would not do so again.

The complainant was advised of the outcome and was 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: 24 December 2015

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

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

None