

The background of the slide is the coat of arms of the City of Vancouver, rendered in a light grey color. It features a crown at the top with four maple leaves, a shield with a ship on the left and a beaver on the right, and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'CIVICITAS FOR A'.

AGENDA ITEM

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**CIVIC LICENSING
ENFORCEMENT –
JANUARY 2016**

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – JANUARY 2016
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 16 March 2016
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in January 2016. 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
- Wheelchair vehicle ramps

2.3 In January 2016, 16 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 437 and 503 – both meters were found to be running 5 and 7 minutes slow.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 32.

The operators were written to and requested to attend the licensing offices and provide evidence that the meter time had been corrected. Both meters are now fully compliant.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

3.1 During January 2016, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 16 civic licensing compliance checks and enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – five 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. One enquiry was also carried out with a new business which is being set up.
- Late Hours Catering – one routine check of licensed premises was carried out which established that there had been a change of ownership and an application form for a licence was subsequently issued. One enquiry was also carried out with premises which have applied for a licence to confirm their current operating hours.
- Street Trader – five routine checks of licensed street traders (mobile shop; mobile fish van; three snack vans) 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.
- 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. Both premises were found to be in order.

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 6 candidates. 2 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

A complaint was received from a male cyclist regarding a taxi driver who had been negotiating the mini roundabout at Cockburn Street and Hodge Street, Falkirk. He alleged that the taxi driver had caused him to brake violently to avoid a collision and that the taxi driver had also made a rude hand gesture towards him. The taxi driver had not stopped and a short time later, as the cyclist was still standing at the side of the road, the taxi driver drove past him and once again made a rude hand gesture towards

him. The taxi driver was traced and when spoken to about the incident denied that his driving had caused the cyclist to brake violently. He maintained that he had the right of way on the roundabout. He also denied that he had made any rude hand gestures towards the cyclist.

A complaint was received from a male motorist regarding a taxi driver and his manner of driving in Carronvale Road, Larbert. He alleged that he had stopped at a road calming measure to allow an oncoming vehicle to pass. However, the taxi driver had driven past him and had then stopped in such a position that the oncoming vehicle struggled to pass him. The taxi driver had then driven into the grounds of Ladeside Primary School. The complainer had approached the taxi driver and remonstrated with him about the manner of his driving and alleged that the taxi driver had used a swear word when replying to him. The taxi driver was traced and when spoken to about the incident he stated that he thought the complainer's vehicle had been parked at the side of the road, along with other vehicles, and that was why he had driven past him. He also stated that there had been a space for him to park in to allow the oncoming vehicle to pass. He did admit that when confronted by the complainer he had used a swear word. He accepted that he should not have done so and was apologetic.

The complainants were advised of the outcome of their complaints 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: 7 March 2016

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None