

The background of the slide features a large, faint, light blue outline of the City of Vancouver coat of arms. The crest includes a crown at the top with four maple leaves, a shield divided into four quadrants (top-left: a saltire, top-right: a tree, bottom-left: a sailing ship, bottom-right: an eagle), and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'CITY OF VANCOUVER' in a circular arrangement.

AGENDA ITEM

6

CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – APRIL 2016

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – APRIL 2016
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 15 June 2016
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in April 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 April 2016, 17 taxis and 4 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 Drivers 1789 & 2031 – the drivers were not carrying their taxi driver licences. This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.

Private Hire Car Drivers 372 & 462 – the drivers were not carrying their private hire car driver licences.

This is a breach of private hire car driver condition number 2.

Private Hire Car Operator 89 – there was no identification sticker on fire extinguisher or first aid kit.

This is a breach of private hire car operator licence conditions 9 and 10.

Private Hire Car Operator 94 – the meter seal was found to be broken.

This is a breach of private hire car operator licence condition number 31.

The operators and drivers 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.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

3.1 During April 2016, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 17 civic licensing compliance checks and 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 properly displayed and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. All were found to be in order. Three enquiries were also carried out. One was a follow up enquiry at premises which have applied for a licence. The other two enquiries were made with garage premises, but no licence was required.
- Late Hours Catering – three 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 – two routine checks of licensed street traders (ice cream van; mobile fish van) were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct. All were found to be in order.
- Window Cleaner – one check of a licensed window cleaner was carried out to ensure that licence holder details were correct. Everything was found to be in order.
- Skin Piercing – one check of licensed skin piercing/tattoo premises was carried out following information that there had been a change of ownership. It was confirmed that the owner was in the process of selling the business and advised that no tattooing was being carried out. Subsequent checks revealed that the premises were closed.
- Booking Office – two checks were carried out to ensure licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being properly displayed and that the booking register was being kept up to date. Everything was found to be in order.

- Public Entertainment – one follow up enquiry was carried out with premises regarding their application for a licence.
- House in Multiple Occupation – one enquiry carried out following information about the number of persons alleged to be residing in a property in Bo'ness. The enquiry is currently ongoing with the owner and letting agent for the property.

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 one knowledge tests involving two candidates. 10 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

A complaint was received from a male resident of Bonnybridge regarding a taxi driver sounding the horn in his taxi to alert his hire. The complainer is a nightshift worker and the sounding of the horn was disturbing his sleep at 08.30hrs. The taxi driver concerned was subsequently traced and advised of the nature of the complaint. He stated that it would not happen again and wished to pass on his apologies to the complainer.

The complainant was advised of the outcome of their complaint 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: 6 June 2016

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None