



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Name of Committee:	LICENSING
Meeting Date:	28th June 2011
Directorate:	Public Protection
Corporate Manager:	Steve Elsey
Agenda Status:	Public part of Agenda

Report Title	Multi Agency Checks of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and vehicles in Northampton. Drivers Induction Course.
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1. Recommendations

That the report be noted

2. Summary

Multi Agency checks are an integral part of the Licensing Department's enforcement strategy. During the previous three months checks on vehicles used for Hackney and Private Hire work and also those used for school transport have taken place. These checks have taken place both during the day and during the evening. Daytime checks have been introduced following concerns that the vehicles used during the day have not been targeted in the past. These checks are in addition to the random checks undertaken by the Licensing Team.

3. Report Background

Of the recent checks 12th May 2011 (Daytime check) and 13th May 2011 (an Evening check) a total of 53 vehicles were examined by the Vehicle and Operators Services Agency, the Police and Licensing Enforcement officers. Drivers details were also checked by NBC Fraud Section.

Of those vehicles checked the following actions were taken:

1. 6 vehicles received Immediate Prohibitions;
2. 11 vehicles received Delayed Prohibitions;
3. 2 drivers were issued with Fixed Penalty Notices for defective tyres; and
4. 38 drivers were cautioned by Licensing Officers for breaches of Council Conditions. (A number of these drivers received multiple cautions.

Defects on vehicles included Tyres with tread below the legal limit, brake defects, lighting defects and suspension defects.

During the checks on school transport 3 drivers received cautions for minor breaches of Council Conditions. These checks are carried out to assist the County Council Enforcement Officers responsible for School Transport.

It is intended that these checks continue and members of the Licensing Committee will be informed prior to forthcoming checks to enable them to attend should they wish to do so. A number of members of the previous committee attended the checks and found it both informative and beneficial.

Induction Course

All drivers prior to being issued with a Hackney or Private Hire drivers licence have to attend the Council run Induction Course. Our own legal department have attended this course in the past and have been very complimentary with regard to its content. It also gives an insight as to the standard expected from each driver.

The previous Chair of Licensing attended the course and was of the opinion that it would be of benefit to all members of the committee and would assist them when having to make decisions with regard to Hackney/Private Hire issues.

Any member wishing to do so will be welcome to attend the course although we could only accommodate a maximum of two on each course.

The next course will be held on Friday 8th July 2011, any member wishing to attend the course can contact the licensing team to reserve their place. The courses run every six weeks dependant on the number of applicants.

3A. Any Relevant Policies

NBC Enforcement Policy

4. Options and Evaluation of Options

N/A

5. Resource Implications (including Financial Implications)

Staff availability.
Venue hire cost (where applicable).

6. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal

- The Council – Licensing Enforcement Officers – re licence conditions for drivers, vehicles and testing facilities.

External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department for Transport (VOSA) – re vehicle test; • The Northamptonshire Police – Road Policing Unit – re vehicle stop, documentation check and road traffic issues; • HM Revenue and Customs – duty free fuel; • Department of Work and Pensions (Fraudulent claims); and • Special Branch/Border Agency (Undisclosed).
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7. Compliance Issues

Finance Comments
N/A
Legal Comments
To Ensure Safety – Protection of The Public
Crime and Disorder Issues
N/A
Equality Impact Assessments
N/A
Human Rights Act Implication
N/A
Other compliance Issues
None

8. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source
Multi Agency Check File		

Name	Signature	Date	Ext.
Author	Mr P Bayliss	09.06.2011	7099
Corporate Manager	Steve Elsey		
Director	Julie Seddon		