

**Wyre Forest District Council**

**Licensing and Environmental Committee**

**The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn**

**14th July 2008 (10:30am)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), Mrs P V Hayward (Vice-Chairman), A J Buckley, B T Glass, Mrs J Greener, P B Harrison, Mrs A T Hingley, M B Kelly, M Price and D R Sheppard.

**Observers:**

Councillor J-P. Campion

**LIC.12 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**LIC.13 Appointment of Substitutes**

No substitutes were appointed.

**LIC.14 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LIC.15 Minutes**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.16 Amendment to Taxi Licensing Conditions**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment in relation to a proposed amendment to the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licence conditions to regularise the issuing of temporary licences in the event of vehicles being damaged or written off.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager outlined the content of the report and explained the rationale for the need for the amendment to the conditions.

Members debated this issue with items particularly raising items with regard to the need for consultation and clarification as to the conditions.

**RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that the amendment to the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions be adopted.**

**LIC.17 Cosmetic Skin Piercing, Special Treatment, Tattooing and Body Piercing**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment in relation to proposed guidance for Cosmetic Skin Piercing, Special Treatment, Tattooing and Body Piercing.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager outlined the content of the report and drew to the Committee's attention the public health issues arising from the report. The Committee welcomed the report.

**RECOMMENDED to Council that the guidance for Cosmetic Skin Piercing, Special Treatment, Tattooing and Body Piercing be adopted.**

**LIC.18 Right to Work and Enhanced Criminal Record Checks for Foreign Nationals – Taxi Drivers**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to seek approval to amend the current procedure for criminal records checks in relation to applications received from foreign nationals and other persons who have lived abroad and to introduce measures to ensure that an applicant has the right to live and work in the United Kingdom before applications are processed.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the content of the report and explained that the appendices incorporated best practice guidance and had regard to the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

**RECOMMENDED to Council that**

- 1. the current procedure for criminal records checks in relation to applications received from foreign nationals and other persons who have lived abroad be amended; and**
- 2. measures be introduced to ensure that an applicant has the right to live and work in the United Kingdom before applications are processed.**

**LIC.19 Guidance relating to the Licensing of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators – Published in a Handbook**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to seek approval to adopt guidance published in a handbook relating to the Licensing of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators issued under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the content of the report and explained that the Handbook was comparable with the guidance published by the other authorities in Worcestershire and following consultation with stakeholders and subject to approval from the Committee the Handbook would be available from the Hub.

Councillor Kelly abstained from voting on this item.

**DECISION:**

**The guidance to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators, be agreed and officers be authorised to undertake consultation on the handbook before reporting back with a further recommendation.**

**LIC.20      Guidance relating to the relevance of Convictions and Cautions for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers and Operators**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to seek approval to supplement the current guidance relating to the Relevance of Convictions contained in the Home Office Circular 13/92 when considering applications for suspension, revocation and granting of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Drivers and Operators Licences under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to accord with Guidance adopted as a policy by Districts within the County of Worcestershire.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the content of the report and advised the Committee that the following consultation and subject to the decision of the Committee, it was intended that guidance be available in the Taxi Licensing Handbook. The Committee welcomed the guidance and were reassured that their decisions regarding licenses had been supported in the Magistrates' Court.

**DECISION:**

**The Guidance to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators be agreed and Officers be authorised to undertake consultation on the guidance before reporting back with a further recommendation.**

**LIC.21      Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**DECISION:**

**Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**LIC.22 Summary of Minutes**

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

**LIC.23 Minutes**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 11.02 a.m.