

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN
MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2012 (10.30 AM)

Present:

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), P B Harrison (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop, A J Buckley, J Greener, P V Hayward, V Higgs, A T Hingley, H J Martin, M Price and M A Salter.

Observers

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.48 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M B Kelly.

LIC.49 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor H J Martin was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M B Kelly.

LIC.50 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.51 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.52 Increase in Fees and Charges for Licensing the Council's Regulatory Service Function for 2012/2013

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council on the proposed increases in the fees and charges in respect of the Council's Regulatory Services Function for 2012/2013.

The Licensing Officer led Members through the report and advised that a meeting had taken place between the Licensing Manager and Finance Officers and the figures produced were a true reflection of the cost of the service and no profit would be made from the proposed increases.

Members were advised the proposal would be discussed at Council on 29th February 2012. Once the fees had been agreed, a 28 day consultation period would be undertaken which would give the taxi trade an opportunity to raise any objections.

Decision: Recommend to Council:

The proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2012/2013, as detailed in the report, be included in the 2012/2013 budget strategy.

LIC.53 Application for an Increase in the Current Taxi Fare Tariff

A report was considered from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which asked the Committee to consider giving approval to undertake a 4 week consultation to measure the level of support for an increase to the current Taxi Fare Tariff.

The Licensing Officer led Members through the report and advised that the signatures on the petition attached at appendix 1 of the report had been redacted for data protection purposes.

Members discussed the various options put forward by the Bewdley Taxi Association and agreed in fairness to the trade the consultation should be allowed to take place.

The Licensing Officer confirmed that as part of the consultation process, each individual licence holder would be written to.

Decision:

Approval be given to the undertaking of a 4 week consultation with the Wyre Forest Taxi Trade, with a main outcome of establishing the level of support for the requested Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff increase.

LIC.54 Exempt Information

Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

LIC.55 Exempt Minutes

Decision: The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.50am.