

Open

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Revised Agenda

10.30am
Monday, 5th August 2013
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Licensing and Environmental Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor P B Harrison

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J A Hart

Councillor R Bishop

Councillor N J Desmond

Councillor P Dyke

Councillor J Greener

Councillor P V Hayward

Councillor V Higgs

Councillor M B Kelly

Councillor N Knowles

Councillor J W Parish

Councillor M Price

Councillor D R Sheppard

Councillor N J Thomas

Councillor G C Yarranton

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to request to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

There are particular circumstances when the Ethics and Standards Committee may exclude the public, which are in addition to those available at meetings of the Council, its Cabinet and Committees etc. These apply when the Ethics and Standards Committee considers the following:

Information relating to a particular chief officer, former chief officer or applicant to become a chief officer of a local probation board within the meaning of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.

Information which relates in any way to matters concerning national security.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of this constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

For further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Louisa Bright, Democratic Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

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If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

Wyre Forest District Council

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Monday, 5th August 2013

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1 - Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Solicitor to the Council, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th June 2013.	6
5.	Hackney Carriage Fare Increase Request To receive a report from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council to consider a request for an increase to the current Wyre Forest Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff, following a 4 week consultation with the Wyre Forest Taxi Trade.	8
6.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	

7.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	
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Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

8.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

MONDAY 17TH JUNE 2013 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: P B Harrison (Chairman), J A Hart (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop, N J Desmond, P Dyke, J Greener, P V Hayward, V Higgs, M B Kelly, N Knowles, M Price and G C Yarranton.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: E Davies, D R Sheppard and N J Thomas.

LIC.2 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.3 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.4 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.5 Application for an Increase in the Current Taxi Fare Tariff

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

The Licensing Manager (WRS) led Members through the report and advised the current Wyre Forest Taxi Fare Tariff had been in place since 1st June 2012. A copy of the current table of fares was circulated to Members at the meeting.

Members were advised 5 options had been put forward by the Bewdley Taxi Association for consideration. If approved, the consultation would commence on 19th June 2013 with all Wyre Forest licensed Hackney Carriage drivers.

Members requested a copy of the national fare table, as shown in the private hire newspaper, and this would be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

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.**
- **The Democratic Services Officer to circulate a copy of the national fare table to all Members of the Committee.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.46am.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

5TH AUGUST 2013

Hackney Carriage Fare Increase Request

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Niall McMenamin – 01527 881454 Senior Licensing Practitioner Worcestershire Regulatory Services niall.mcmenamin@worcsregservices.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Fare Increase Request Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses Appendix 3 – Fare Increase Options

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a request for an increase to the current Wyre Forest Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff, following a 4 week consultation with the Wyre Forest Taxi Trade.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to consider:

Increasing the current Wyre Forest Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff in line with option 3 attached at “appendix 3” to this report, taking into account responses received following consultation with the Wyre Forest Taxi Trade.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 17th June 2013 the Licensing and Environmental Committee considered a request from the Bewdley Taxi Association for an increase to the current Wyre Forest hackney carriage fare tariff and agreed to undertake a 4 week consultation with the Wyre Forest licensed Taxi Trade. A copy of the Bewdley Taxi Associations fare increase request is attached at “**appendix 1**”.
- 3.2 84 responses were received by the Licensing Office in reply to the consultation, showing that 60 trade members were clearly in favour of an increase to the fare tariff. However 21 trade members were against any increase at this time. Out of the remaining responses all 3 were received beyond the consultation closing date. A full summary of the responses received to the consultation is attached at “**appendix 2**”.

3.3 Out of the responses received from trade members it can be see that:

- 14 were in favour of option 1
- 17 were in favour of option 2
- 18 were in favour of option 3
- 1 (and 4 others) were in favour of option 4
- 21 were in favour of option 5 (No increase)
- 13 Various other suggestions in favour of an increase were also received (3 received out of time).

Total - 84 responses.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 Four options have now been put forward by the Wyre Forest taxi trade for consideration by the Committee members. Details of the four options showing the percentage increase for each is attached at “**appendix 3**”.

4.2 The current Wyre Forest Taxi Fare Tariff has been in place since 1st June 2012.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Should an increase be agreed by Committee members, there is then a requirement to display a public notice detailing the increase in the local press. There will be a cost to advertise the new table of fares and to issue the new fare tariff card to all of the hackney carriage proprietors.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the local authority the powers to set fares for Hackney Carriages.

6.2 If the Committee is minded to grant an increase to the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff, any change in fares agreed by the Council must be advertised publicly by way of a press notice. There is then a period of 14 days before the changes takes effect, giving members of the public the opportunity to object to the proposes increase or variation.

6.3 If no objections to the new table of fares are received, they will come into effect at the end of the fourteen day period.

6.4 If objections are received, the council shall set a further date, not less than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force, with or without modification, having taken into account such objections.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There is no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no issues over Equality Impact Assessment.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 Wyre Forest District Council is required to consider any request for an increase to the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff. This report provides the Committee with details of the hackney carriage fare increase request made by the Bewdley Taxi Association and outlines the consultation which has taken place with the trade, including their subsequent responses.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 Director of Community Assets and Localism.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Licensing and Environmental Committee report and resolution 17 June 2013, agreeing to undertake a 4 week consultation with the Wyre Forest taxi trade on the proposed fare increase request.

From: Maurice Alton
Sent: 19 April 2013 07:03
To: Niall McMEnamin
Subject: Application for Taxi Fare Increase

Dear Niall,

As requested, this is a formal application from Bewdley Taxi Association for a fare increase to be implemented in May/June 2013.

We put forward the following options for the Councils consideration : -

- 1/. £3.50 flag
- 2/. £2.90 flag plus 20p per mile
- 3/. £2.80 flag plus 10p per mile
- 4/. Either of the above with an additional £1.00 per person above 4 people in vehicle.
- 5/. No increase.

Our own fees to the Council have increased again , and we feel that is only right that we should be afforded an increase too. Obviously fuel prices / cost of living increase / vehicle maintenance and capital outlay for WAV's are part of many reasons for our application .

I can bring supporting documentation to the next Taxi liaison meeting if required.

Best regards. Maurice Alton. Chairman Bewdley Taxi Association

Wyre Forest District Council

Fare Increase Options

Options put forward by the Bewdley Taxi Association, in their email to the Licensing Office dated 19th April 2013.

Option 1 – Increase the flag fare to £3.50 for the first ½ mile. No increase on the running mile (each mile thereafter)

This represents a 16% increase over 2 miles, 9% increase over 5 miles and 5% increase over 10 miles (rounded up).

Option 2 – Increase the flag fare to £2.90 for the first ½ mile plus an increase of 20p for the running mile (each mile thereafter)

This represents a 6% increase over 2 miles, 11% increase over 5 miles and 12% increase over 10 miles (rounded up).

Option 3 – Increase the flag fare to £2.80 for the first ½ mile plus an increase of 10p for the running mile (each mile thereafter)

This represents a 6% increase over 2 miles, 5% increase over 5 miles and 4% increase over 10 miles (rounded up).

Option 4 – To choose one of the above options, with an additional £1.00 charge for each passenger in excess of 4 traveling in the vehicle.

Option 5 – No Increase at the present time.