

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013 (10.30AM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: P B Harrison (Chairman), J A Hart (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop, N J Desmond, P V Hayward, V Higgs, M B Kelly, N Knowles, J W Parish, M Price, M A Salter, D R Sheppard, N J Thomas and G C Yarranton.

**Observers:**

There were no members present as observers.

**LIC.6 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Dyke and J Greener.

**LIC.7 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor M A Salter was appointed as a substitute for Councillor P Dyke.

**LIC.8 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LIC.9 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.10 Hackney Carriage Fare Increase Request**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) 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.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner (WRS) led Members through the report and advised that additional information; including a comparison of taxi fares in Worcestershire, the national average fare table for June 2013 and fuel price reports, had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting to assist them in their decision making process.

In response to a Members question regarding the re-issuing of the agenda, the Senior Licensing Practitioner confirmed the report had been amended to include additional information relating to the consultation responses and

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provide a firmer recommendation for Members to consider. The Committee were addressed by Mr Alton, Chairman of Bewdley Taxi Association who asked Members to support the fare increase request, and Mr Owen who reiterated the points made in his consultation response.

Members discussed the various fare increase options listed in the report and also considered an increase in line with inflation. The Committee agreed there should be no increase to the tariff at the present time, however the issue should be discussed at the next meeting of the Wyre Forest Taxi Liaison Group which is made up of taxi trade representatives from across the whole of the District. Members felt this was the forum where any requests for fare rises should be initiated from.

#### **Agreed:**

- **There is no increase to the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff at the present time.**
- **Councillor M B Kelly be appointed as the Council's representative on the Wyre Forest Taxi Liaison Group.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.10am.