

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

5TH OCTOBER 2015 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: J A Hart (Chairman), J Baker (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, G W Ballinger, R Bishop, J R Desmond, J Greener, N Knowles, F M Oborski MBE, C Rogers, J D Smith and G C Yarranton.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

Inspector Edd Williams from West Mercia Police who is responsible for Local Policing in Wyre Forest was welcomed to the meeting and gave the Committee a verbal update on Licensing issues and the tacking of anti-social behaviour within the District.

Members were advised a new Public Space Protection Order came into force at the end of August 2015, to tackle the issue of street drinking in Kidderminster Town Centre. The order was not just about enforcing a street drinking ban; it was also about working with partners to provide help to individuals with long term alcohol addictions.

Inspector Williams emphasised the importance of working alongside Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), the Council, Community Housing Group and the Fire Service to tackle anti-social behaviour with targeted initiatives throughout the year, and addressing licensing issues through mediation and reviewing practices. He also praised the work of the volunteers who take part in the Street Pastor scheme and the positive impact they have on assisting with the policing of the night time economy.

LIC.7 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

LIC.8 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.9 Declaration of Interests

Councillor F M Oborski MBE declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item 7 - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy Action Plan, as she is the Vice-Chairman of Worcestershire County Council's Children and Families Panel and Chairman of the Wyre Forest Local Children's Trust, and had been involved in the preparation of the Action Plan.

LIC.10 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.11 Application to Licence Pedicabs (Pedal Cycle Rickshaws) as Hackney Carriages in Wyre Forest

The Committee received a report from the Director of WRS on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which asked the Committee to reconsider the proposal received to consider licensing Pedicabs as hackney carriage vehicles within the Wyre Forest.

Members were reminded the report had been deferred from the last meeting of the Committee which was held on 15th June 2015. Since the meeting the applicant had withdrawn interest in his original proposal and no longer wished to pursue the matter.

Agreed: Following notification from Mr Salt of his withdrawal of interest in the original proposal, the report be withdrawn.

LIC.12 Non-Motorised Hackney Carriage Vehicles

The Committee received a report from the Director of WRS on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which asked the Committee to consider the merits of introducing a new hackney carriage vehicle policy and suitable conditions to control the licensing of non-motorised hackney carriage vehicles in the District of Wyre Forest.

A debate ensued and it was agreed that as the Council had received only one proposal which had subsequently been withdrawn, no further work be undertaken by Officers.

Agreed: No further work be undertaken by Officers on the formulation and introduction of a new policy to licence non-motorised vehicles as hackney carriages.

LIC.13 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy Action Plan

The Committee received a report from the Director of WRS on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which informed Members of Worcestershire's Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Action Plan.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner for WRS led Members through the report and advised that all of the Council's licensed hackney carriage / private hire drivers had received a copy of the WRS CSE information leaflet and the relevant guidance would be distributed to all Licensed Premises with the annual invoices in November 2015.

Members welcomed the work which was being undertaken and requested schools be added to the list of locations where sexual exploitation could take

place.

Agreed:

- **The provisions of the report relating to Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) participation in Worcestershire's Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Action Plan on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council be endorsed.**
- **Recommend approval of the provisions to the WRS Joint Committee.**

LIC.14 Gambling Act 2005 Revised Statement of Principles Review Consultation Results

The Committee received a report from the Director of WRS on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which asked Members to consider the responses received during the recent consultation on the revised Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner for WRS led Members through the report and highlighted the additions and amendments made to the current Statement of Principles 2013-2016.

Agreed:

- **The outcome of the consultation exercise be noted.**

Recommend to Council:

- **The revised Statement of Principles 2016-2019 attached at Appendix 2 of the report to the Licensing and Environmental Committee, subject to typo graphical errors being amended, be approved and published.**

LIC.15 Deregulation Act 2015

The Committee received a report from the Director of WRS on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council on the Deregulation Act 2015.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner for WRS led Members through the report and outlined the effect of the changes to Section 10 of the act which related to the Council's hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions which came into effect on 1st October 2015.

Agreed: The Committee Resolved:

- **To approve the guidance on the duration of private hire operator licences (Appendix 1) to take immediate effect.**
- **Direct officers to carry out the procedures required to advertise the proposed fee for a five year private hire operator licence as £1760.**

Agenda Item No. 4

- **Recommend to Council that the proposed fee for a three year dual hackney carriage / private hire driver licence be set at £415 and if no representations are received following the advertisement of the proposed fee, that the five year private hire operator licence fee be set at £1760. If representations are received they must be considered by the Committee before a fee is recommended to Council.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.24am.