

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

7TH DECEMBER 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.

LIC.16 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

LIC.17 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.18 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.19 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.20 Review of Fees and Charges for the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2016/17

The Committee received a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which informed Members of the recent review of the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function fees and charges, and proposed an increase in the fees and charges for the financial year 2016/17.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner for WRS led Members through the report and advised that there had been no representations or comments received to the 28 day public consultation on the proposal to introduce a 5 year private hire operator licence with a fee being set at £1760, which had been agreed by the Licensing and Environmental Committee meeting held on 5th October 2015.

Agenda Item No. 4

Members were advised it was proposed that all fees with the exception of Taxi Licensing, Sex Establishment and statutory fees set by Central Government, which included the Licensing Act 2003 applications, should be increased by 5% as set out in the Council's current financial strategy.

A Member expressed concern over the proposal to increase the fees by 5% when inflation was currently at 0%.

Members were reminded the Regulatory Services Licensing fees and charges were non-profit making and were designed to meet but not exceed the cost in issuing licences and the administration of the service.

The recommendations as set out in the report to the Licensing and Environmental Committee were proposed and seconded. Upon a show of hands the recommendations were carried by a majority vote. Councillors N Knowles and F M Oborski voted against the proposal.

Decision: RECOMMEND to Council:

- 1. That in accordance with the Deregulation Act 2015 and following public consultation the fee for a five year private hire operator licence are set at £1760, the fee for a three year dual hackney carriage/private hire driver licence are set at £415, and that both fees are included in the Council's table of fees and charges.**
- 2. That the proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2016/17, as detailed in the report to the Licensing and Environmental Committee, be included in the Council's 2016/17 budget strategy.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.43am.