

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

8TH FEBRUARY 2016 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: J A Hart (Chairman), J Baker (Vice-Chairman), 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.21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Aston.

LIC.22 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.23 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.24 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

LIC.26 To Consider Notice of a Conviction at Worcester Crown Court in the Name of an Existing Hackney Carriage Private Hire Driver's Licence Holder

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which asked Members to consider notification of a conviction at Worcester Crown Court in the name of an existing Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence holder under section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner for Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) led Members through the exempt report and appendices which set out the key issues relating to the conviction.

Members were advised that at the time of writing the report the licence holder had not yet been sentenced, however the Senior Licensing Practitioner reported that information had been received which stated that the licence holder had received a 10 month prison sentence and that may have been the reason why he had not attended the Committee meeting.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing left the meeting at this point, (10.42am), for Members to deliberate their decision. The Solicitor and the Principal Committee and Member Services Officer stayed in the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision. The Senior Practitioner – Licensing returned to the meeting for the Solicitor to read out the unanimous decision of the Committee.

Decision:

Having carefully considered the report to the Committee made pursuant to section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in relation to the Licence holder's Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence the Committee has decided that the Licence holder's Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence be revoked, in accordance with the powers set out in section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, on the grounds that the Licence holder had been convicted of an offence of dishonesty against, who in the opinion of the Committee was, a vulnerable person whilst acting as a taxi driver and did not appear to the Committee, with due consideration of the Council's "Guidelines relating to the Relevance of Convictions", to be "a fit and proper person" to hold such a Licence in light of the Licence holder's conviction dated 15 December 2015 for theft (from another person).

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.48am.