

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

7TH AUGUST 2017 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: J Baker (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, R Bishop, J R Desmond, I Hardiman, N Knowles, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, J D Smith, R J Vale and R Wilson.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J A Hart (Chairman) and V Higgs.

LIC.07 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor N Knowles was a substitute for Councillor V Higgs.

LIC.08 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.09 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.10 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.11 Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place that asked Members to consider an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Agenda Item No. 4

The Technical Officer – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report and advised that the applicant had disclosed all of his previous convictions as part of the application process. A copy of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced disclosure certificate and DVLA Licence Summary print out was circulated to Members at the meeting. The Technical Officer drew Members attention to the DVLA printout and advised that of the six penalty points listed; only three were current.

The applicant addressed the Committee and asked Members to support his application. Following questions from Members, the applicant outlined the circumstances surrounding his previous convictions and explained the reasons for his actions.

The Technical Officer and applicant left the meeting at this point, (10.55am), for Members to deliberate their decision. The Solicitor and Principal Committee and Member Services Officer stayed in the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

The Technical Officer and applicant re-entered the meeting at this point, (11.48am). The Solicitor read out the decision of the Committee.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver’s Licence to the applicant, the Committee has decided that the application to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver’s Licence to the applicant be refused on the grounds that the applicant 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:

- 1. the Applicant having been convicted of two offences involving violent or aggressive behaviour within the last 5 years;**
- 2. the Applicant has committed a number of speeding offences which have been disclosed on the licence summary given to the Committee (of which the Committee acknowledges only three points are current); and**
- 3. the Applicant did not give the Committee sufficient exceptional circumstances to depart from the said Guidelines.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.50am.