

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

HELD REMOTELY

7TH JUNE 2021 (10.30AM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: P Dyke (Chairman), A Coleman (Vice-Chairman), J F Byng, R H Coleman, B S Dawes, C Edginton-White, I Hardiman, K Henderson, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, L Whitehouse and P W M Young.

**Observers:**

There were no members present as observers.

**LIC.01 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**LIC.02 Appointment of Substitutes**

No substitutes were appointed.

**LIC.03 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LIC.04 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.05 Review of The Gambling Act 2005 Revised Statement of Principles Approval to Commence Consultation**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council asking them to approve the revised draft Gambling Statement of Principles 2022–25 for purpose of consultation with relevant parties, as part of the statutory triennial review in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing led Members through the report explaining that there were very few changes, but the consultation exercise needed to be completed to give opportunity for comment on the document. The new Statement of Principles must be prepared and published ready to take effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Members took the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the report.

**DECISION: The Committee approved the revised draft Gambling Statement of Principles at Appendix 1 of the report, for the purpose of consultation with relevant parties.**

**LIC.06 Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Approval to Commence Consultation**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council, informing Members of a recent review of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policies in response to the publication and recommendations of the Department for Transport guidance and sought approval to undertake a consultation with relevant stakeholders on the Council's draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing led Members through the report informing them of the background to the publication of the guidance. Worcestershire Regulatory Services had considered the guidance in detail to ensure the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy reflected the standards laid out. He was pleased to say that Wyre Forest District Council had already implemented much of what was suggested, but that this was an opportunity to make the policy more robust.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing said that this would be a countywide document which was hoped would offer more consistency across the county and reassured the Committee there would be an opportunity to inform Members of any changes arising from the consultation once the 12 week consultation period had concluded.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing answered Members questions around issues arising from the information in the report and a detailed discussion took place around limousine services in Wyre Forest and CCTV in vehicles.

**DECISION: The Committee noted the content of the report and authorised officers to undertake consultation with relevant stakeholders on the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy shown at Appendix 2 of the report.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11:28am.