

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 6.00 pm in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors: C Mason (Chair), T Hope, A Mackenzie, R Picken, R Scammell, J Seymour and J Thompson.

Officers in attendance: Jonathan Eatough – Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, Ian Mercer – Public Protection Service Delivery Manager, Suzanne Fisher – Public Protection Team Leader, Tina Street – Solicitor and Wendy Buckley - Democratic Services Support Officer.

#### **LC-01      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **LC-02      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors B Duce, L Murray and K Tomlinson.

#### **LC-03      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Scammell declared a personal interest in respect of Terry Spooner of Ultimate Taxis in their capacity as members of Newport Town Council.

#### **LC-04      REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE FEES**

The Public Protection Team Leader presented a report of the Service Delivery Manager for Members to consider an increase in the level of Licence Fees and charges affecting the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade for financial year 2012/13 to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

It was pointed out that the draft report, appendix F – Community Impact Assessment, was now an approved document which showed no significant impact on the community and that the implementation date of the revised fees would be 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012. It was also confirmed that following trade consultation, the proposed fees, which had been advertised in the Shropshire Star on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, had been reduced for private hire/hackney carriage driver 3 year licence and dual driver 3 year licence.

The Chair stated that an excellent job had been achieved by Licensing Officers with regard to the potential increase in Licence Fees during this time of economic instability. The amounts were reasonable and effective for cost recovery. The taxi trade had been consulted on the potential fee increase, it had been discussed in the Taxi Forum and meetings had been held with the taxi trade. A further review of

the licence fees would be carried out in December.

Having considered the information in the report and Appendix A attached it was:

**RESOLVED** – by unanimous vote - that the proposed licence fees and charges for the financial year 2012/13, as shown at Column F of Appendix A, be approved with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

**LC-05      POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2011**

The Public Protection Team Leader presented a report of the Service Delivery Manager to inform Members of the implications of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 for the Committee's Licensing Act 2003 functions.

Members agreed that the information in the report was welcome news however clarification was sought on the issue of (a) making local health bodies responsible authorities and (b) licence applicants giving greater consideration to the local area when making their application – both at 5.1.5.a in the report. Members noted that the Primary Care Trust would be dissolved by 2014 and responsibility would be transferred to the Council's public health function led by Catherine Woodward. The Public Protection Team Leader advised Members that the licensing team would check the application provided and direct applicants to the Telford & Wrekin website where there was lots of information to be gained to support their application.

Having considered the report it was:

**RESOLVED** – by unanimous vote – that

- (a) Authority be delegated to suspend a licence following non-payment of fee to the Principal Licensing Officer and Service Delivery Manager, Public Protection.
- (b) A period of 7 days be approved, following the holder being notified in writing, for the suspension to take effect.
- (c) Authority be delegated to make representations as a Responsible Authority to the Principal Licensing Officer and Service Delivery Manager, Public Protection.
- (d) Authority be delegated to issue notices imposing conditions on Temporary Event Notices to the Licensing Technical and Principal Licensing Officers (where agreement has been reached by all parties).

Meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

