

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 26th March 2013 at 10.00 am in Meeting Room 7, Darby House, Telford

PRESENT

Councillors: C Mason (Chair), A Mackenzie, L Murray, R Scammell, J Seymour, K Tomlinson and C Turley.

Officers in attendance: Jonathan Eatough – Assistant Director: Law, Democracy and Public Protection, Jo Revell - Health, Safety & Resilience Manager, Suzanne Fisher – Public Protection Team Leader and Wendy Buckley - Democratic Services Support Officer.

LC - 35 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC- 36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors – R Picken, J Thompson.
Officers – Tina Street, Solicitor.

LC- 37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC – 38 LICENCE FEES

The Assistant Director informed Members of the proposed Licence fees as detailed in appendix B to the agenda. In these tough economic times and with Telford & Wrekin Council's priority of being a business winning/business supporting council officers had balanced the cost of providing the licensing service with fees that did not overburden the business community. Members were referred to 3.4 of appendix B which showed that many fees had in fact been reduced for 2013. Reference was also made to appendix C attached to the report – proposed general fees which showed a typing error under column B – proposed fee for sex establishment – renewal. This figure was confirmed to be £1500 and a correct version of appendix C was tabled. The proposed fees for 2013 were proposed at a level that would recover the cost of an increasingly efficient service and would ensure business operating costs remained low.

One efficiency was the proposed removal of the option for a new driver to have a six month licence and for existing drivers to have either a 12 month or 3 year licence. Issuing a 3 year licence would maximise efficiencies and reduce costs and, over time, would bring renewals of medicals and criminal record disclosures in line with the licence renewal date. Some Members showed concern of a 3 year licence but the Public Protection Team Leader advised that issues regarding medical reminders

or advising of police convictions would be flagged up on the public protection computer system.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the level of fees, as shown in the appendices to the report, to come into force on 1 May 2013, be approved;**
- (b) that the option for either a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence or a Private Hire Driver Licence or a Dual Licence be removed and in their place have a one 'Driver Licence';**
- (c) that the option for a 6 month and 12 month Driver Licence be removed;**
- (d) that the option for a 6 month vehicle licence be removed.**

Meeting closed at 10.45 am

Chairman:

Dated: