

LICENSING COMMITTEE

3 September 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Brandis (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blake, Hawkett, Huxley, Lambert, Mills, Mrs Phipps, Mrs Renshell, Mrs Roberts, Sir Beville Stanier and Vick.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Rand

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of 9 May 2012 and 12 July be approved as correct records.

2. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S GAMBLING ACT 2005 LICENSING POLICY

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 required all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of principles that they proposed to apply in exercising their functions under the Act. Furthermore, the statement of principles or licensing policy lasted for a period of three years. The Council had published the current policy in January 2010 and therefore a new policy had to be published for January 2013.

The policy had to be produced following consultation with a number of prescribed bodies and persons. Regulations also prescribed the form of policy and the procedure to be followed in relation to them and their publication.

The Council's current policy was very much based on a statement of principles template originally published by LACORS. The draft new policy contained no substantive changes to its predecessor. It was however still necessary for a new policy to be produced every three years. A copy of the draft policy had been attached to the agenda as an appendix.

The draft had been circulated widely, although feedback from the consultation had been very limited, with just three consultees, Winslow Town Council, Buckingham Town Council and the local Member for Buckingham North, Councillor Tim Mills, responding. Their comments were circulated at the meeting. It was confirmed that no casinos were allowed in AVDC's area, and if any were planned this would mean a change to the Policy. It would also be hard for AVDC to impose any conditions relating to addicted gamblers as licences were dealt with by the Gambling Commission, and AVDC's powers were limited to the premises themselves.

Members' raised a number of issues relating to travelling fairs and the need to advise Members and Parish Councils of applications, whether new or renewals, for gambling premises in their areas.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Committee noted the need to produce a new policy in respect to the Gambling Act, 2005 and in noting the comments that had arisen from the formal consultation of the draft policy, recommended that the policy be approved at a future meeting of the Cabinet, before formal adoption by full Council.