

Licensing Committee Minutes

Date: 15 March 2012

Time: 7.00 - 7.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A E Hill (in the Chair)

Councillors D H G Barnes, A R Green, S F Parker, R J Scott and D A C Shakespeare OBE.

Standing Deputies present: Councillors: Z Ahmed and A Slater.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: W J Bendyshe-Brown, D J Carroll, S P Lacey, Ms P L Lee, J L Richards OBE, J A Savage and A Turner.

9 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2012 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11 DRAFT REVIEW OF GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY

The report considered by the Committee explained that the Council was required to produce and publish its Gambling Act 2005 Policy at least every 3 years. There was also a requirement that the Policy should be reviewed from time to time and that relevant authorities should be consulted as part of any policy review.

Members noted that during the time that the Council's current Policy had been in force no issues had arisen and no changes were at present being proposed. This would mean that a consultation with the relevant authorities would take place with a view to continuing the existing arrangements.

During a period of questions and general discussion of gambling matters it was noted that there were currently no casinos and only one adult gaming centre operating in the District. Applications for 'occasional use' establishments were received from time to time, most usually in connection with point to point horse racing events.

The opportunity was taken to brief members of the Committee on the progress of legislative developments and it was noted that a range of changes were in the pipeline, some of which were expected to take effect from 6 April 2012. Formal government guidance, however, was still awaited. One of the changes expected to

take place would give the Council, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, the additional function of responsible authority, enabling it to call for reviews of licences. New powers were also expected to be awarded to licensing authorities to suspend licences for non-payment of fees.

Mention was also made of the national arrangement permitting licensed premises to stay open for an extra hour in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

RESOLVED: That the draft review of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) Policy be approved for a consultation exercise as required by the Act.

12 SCHEDULE OF LICENSING PANELS HELD SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that no Panel Hearings had taken place since the previous meeting.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Caroline Steven	- Licensing Team Leader
Diana Davis	- Democratic Services