

LICENSING COMMITTEE

A

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Monday, 11th June 2018 at 6.00pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

Present: Councillors C R Turley (Chair), M Boylan, I T W Fletcher, J A Francis, M B Hosken, C N Mason, L A Murray, C F Smith and M J Smith.

In Attendance: N Minshall (Service Delivery Manager), A Hunt (Public Protection Manager), S Fisher (Principal Licensing Officer), P Martin (Legal Advisor) and J Clarke (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer).

LC-01 Apologies for Absence

Councillors J A Pinter and J M Seymour.

LC-02 Declarations of Interest

None.

LC-03 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 20 March 2018 be signed by the Chair.

LC-04 Review of Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy

The Public Protection Manager presented the review of the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy. This was a statutory review which took place three yearly and Members were asked to approve that a formal 12 week consultation with the relevant parties be undertaken. The Policy had been streamlined and drawn up removing outdated information. The proposed changes to the Policy included on page 6 of the Policy document “Protecting children and other vulnerable people from gambling”; page 8 of the Policy the “location” and its impact; page 9 of the Policy “Local Risk Assessments” which sought to mitigate any risk and identify any relevant matters and page 13 of the Policy “Permits” which included the codes of practice for gaming machines and alcohol licensed premises.

During the ensuing debate some Members raised the gambling machine bets being reduced from a £100 stake to a £1 stake and if this would be monitored within the betting shops. Other Members raised how the regulations regarding the presence of children in gambling establishments was regulated and raised a further query regarding tracks and money laundering.

The Principal Licensing Officer confirmed that the reduction of gambling stakes had now become statutory law and was currently being implemented. There would be no need for Licensing to visit individual venues as these machines were owned by large companies and were regulated. With regard to the children within gambling establishments, some

premises were regulated by law where other could allow children to be present (ie such as bingo clubs and pubs) under the Gambling Act 2005 which gives power for the Licence Holder to decide if children can enter the venue. Gambling on machines in pubs is for over 18s and the machines were normally located near to the bar so staff can see who is accessing the machines. The Service Delivery Manager confirmed that this would be looked at during the risk assessment and would contain details of the protection of children from harm.

The Legal Advisor spoke regarding the money laundering and confirmed that this would be a Police Matter.

The Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services confirmed that Licensing work closely with the Police sharing intelligence and if Members had any concerns they could raise them with the Licensing Team.

Upon being put to the vote it was, unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that the amendments made to the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy and the formal 12 week consultation with all relevant organisations be approved.

LC-04 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Legal Advisor presented the report on the Review of Terms of Reference. The Council’s Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees to enable the Council to efficiently conduct its business. At the annual Meeting on the 24th May 2018, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference. The officer recommendation suggested that there were no changes to the Terms of Reference.

Upon being put to the vote it was, unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that the Terms of Reference of the Licensing Committee be agreed.

The meeting ended at 6.26 pm.

Chairman:

Date: