

LICENSING & GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2022

Present:

Councillor Heather Liggett (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Michael Roe (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Pat Antcliff
Councillor Pat Kerry
Councillor Tracy Reader
Councillor Philip Wright

Councillor Nigel Barker
Councillor Stephen Pickering
Councillor Pam Windley

Also Present:

M Finn Environmental Health Manager
L Ingram Legal Team Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Maher Interim Governance Manager

LGA/ Apologies for Absence

7/20-

21

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M Emmens, M Foster, M Potts, L Stone and M E Thacker MBE JP.

LGA/ Declarations of Interest

8/20-

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None.

LGA/ Minutes of the Last Meeting

9/20-

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RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2022 were approved as a true record.

LGA/ Review of the Council's Policy under the Gambling Act 2005

10/2

0-21

Committee was reminded that under the Gambling Act 2005 the Council was responsible for issuing a range of premises licenses, including those for casinos, bingo halls, betting offices and other places where gambling takes place. The Authority was required to have a policy on how it would regulate Gambling in the District. Under the Act, this Policy had to be reviewed every three years. As part of the Review, a public consultation exercise had taken place. Following on from this a Revised Policy had been produced. Committee was asked to endorse the Revised Policy and recommend it to Council for approval.

Members discussed the responses received to the consultation exercise and the issues raised. Committee discussed the Revised Policy and the associated 'Local Area Profile' for the District, with the aim of giving operators and a better awareness of the local area and the potential and actual risks which they need to take into account.

Members considered the growth of Online Gambling. They noted the most recent annual statistics from the National Gambling Treating Service indicating that 79% of gamblers now gambled through Online service providers. Members also heard that since the Policy had last been reviewed and published, in 2019 there had been a reduction in the number of gambling premises in the District, from 7 to 4.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Members felt that Revised Policy would be appropriate in terms of regulating Gambling Premises within the District. Members noted, however, that Online Gambling could not be regulated locally by Licensing Authorities through such policies. Committee also felt that given the reduction in the number of Gambling premises and the growth of Online Gambling a so-called 'Cumulative Impact Policy, to restrict the number of such premises in the District would not be required.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee noted the outcome of the Public Consultation on the Council's Gambling Act.
- (2) That Licensing and Gambling Act Committee noted the findings in relation to the Cumulative Impact Policy.
- (3) That the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee endorsed the proposed amendments to the Gambling Act 2005 Policy and Local Area Profile.
- (4) That the Revised Policy and Local Area Profile be submitted to Council for approval.

LGA/ Update on Licensing Matters/Recent Development

11/2

0-21

Members received an Update on recent issue relating to the Council's Licensing responsibilities. These included the introduction of CCTV in licensed vehicles and operational issues that would need to be addressed.

RESOLVED - That Committee noted the Update.

LGA/ Arrangements for the February Meeting

12/2

0-21

Committee was asked to bring forward the time of its meeting on 7 February 2023 in order to accommodate a Member Training session on the Council's Licensing functions.

RESOLVED - That the revised timing of the Committee meeting on 7 February 2023 be determined in agreement with the Chair of the Council.

LGA/ Matters of Urgency

13/2

0-21

None.