

Monday 14 January 2013
at 6.00pm

Licensing Act Committee

MEMBERS: Councillor SHUTTLEWORTH (Chairman) Councillor UNGAR (Deputy Chairman), Councillors Mrs COLES, COOKE, Mrs HEARN, MURDOCH, STANLEY, TAYLOR, WARNER and Mrs WEST.

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Mrs Ansell, Murray and Thompson).

1 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2012 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

2 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs).

None were received.

3 Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) 2013-2016.

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager regarding the Council's revised Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) 2013-2016.

The Licensing Officer gave an overview of the Gambling Act, which came into force on 1 September 2007. The legislation established the Gambling Commission, which advised both central and local government on issues related to gambling.

As a statutory requirement under the Act, the authority is required to formulate a three year Gambling Policy, which proposed how it would exercise its functions under the Act. The Policy is required to be reviewed at least every three years. The revised version, appended to the report would be effective from 20 February 2013, if approved. The revised Policy is required to be considered by the Full Licensing Committee before being referred to a future Cabinet meeting, before approval at Full Council.

Consultation for the revised Policy took place between 1 October and 24 December 2012. The Council had received two responses from the Remote Gambling Association and Quality UK. The responses were appended to the report.

The Licensing Officer detailed the proposed amendments to the current Policy that more clearly defined the role of the Council as a Licensing Authority. The revised Policy would ensure that the concentration is focused on the potential impact of licensed premises, with particular regard to the three licensing objectives, detailed in section 1.6 of the report. Key changes

included an updated background and introductory information, new section on illegal gaming machines and a change to how the authority handled personal details of interested parties.

Additional revisions to the Policy had been made to improve understanding and accessibility for Borough residents, businesses and other interested parties. It was designed to allow them to contribute effectively in relation to the operation of licensed premises in the area and give them an understanding of how they can express their concerns in relation to gambling matters.

RESOLVED: (1) That the changes to the Council's Gambling Act Policy (Statement of Principles) 2013-2016 be noted and endorsed.
(2) That the matter be referred to a future Cabinet meeting and then Full Council for formal adoption.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

A Shuttleworth
(Chairman)