
EXTRAORDINARY LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth on Wednesday 6 October 2021 from 7.30pm to 7.50pm.

Members of the Licensing Committee:-

Councillors:- Martin Trevett (Chair)
 Joanna Clemens
 David Coltman
 Paul Rainbow
 Kate Turner

Officers in attendance:

Lorna Fryer – Lead Licensing Officer
Alex Reynolds – Licensing Officer
Sherrie Ralton - Committee Manager

LEC 08/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Raj Khuroya, Donna Duncan, Stephen Cox, Roger Seabourne and Alex Turner.

LEC 09/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

LEC 10/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none

LEC 11/21 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The review of the ‘Statement of Gambling Principles and Policy (hereafter referred to as “the draft Statement of Policy”) is required by The Gambling Act 2005 (“the Act”). The current policy (Appendix A) was amended in 2018 and came into force on

14 January 2019 and is in place until 13 January 2022. The Policy must be reviewed at least every 3 years.

Members had also previously confirmed the continuation of a 'No Casinos' policy which is attached to the current policy at Appendix 4. The resolution of a 'No Casinos' policy was first passed by Full Council on 17 October 2006, and more recently was passed in 2018 when the Statement of Policy was last amended.

Earlier this year Officers reviewed the draft Statement of Policy and sought Members' comments, or additions to, the policy via the Licensing Committee on 16 June 2021. At the June meeting the draft Statement of Policy was noted by Members with no changes proposed.

Following the June Committee Officers commenced a 6 week public consultation process, which ended on 27 August 2021.

No comments were received during the consultation period and therefore the draft Statement of Policy is returning to the Licensing Committee for Member agreement and to then to be ratified by Full Council on 19 October 2021 in order for it to be implemented on 14 January 2022.

A resolution on Casinos will also need to be passed if it is to form part of the draft Statement of Policy.

The draft Statement of Policy must come into force by 14 January 2022 otherwise the Council will be unable to exercise its function under the Act.

There were no questions.

The Chair was happy to move the recommendation as there had been no comments during the consultation.

On casinos, the Chair advised that the majority of the Administration Group felt there was no reason to continue with the policy of having no casinos in the District.

The Lead Licensing Officer advised that it was the decision of the Secretary of State whether to ban casinos in certain districts. If an application for a casino was made it would go to the Secretary of State in the first instance and if agreed would then go to Three Rivers to consider through the usual process.

A Member raised concerns that proof of age would need to be tighter to ensure only people over 18 would be able to enter. The Lead Licensing Officer assured that the Gambling Commission would have procedures in place.

A Member was concerned as to whether a casino would be appropriate in Three Rivers.

The Chair proposed to remove the 'No Casino Policy' from the draft Statement of Policy. Following a discussion and advice from the Lead Licensing Officer, it was agreed by all Members that the 'No Casino Policy' should be removed. It was agreed that wording to be used be delegated to the Director of Community and Environmental Services in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Lead Member of the Committee.

Post Meeting Note: The following wording was agreed: *It is important to note that The Gambling Act 2005 does not at present give the licensing authority the power to issue a casino operating licence. This must be applied via The Gambling Commission and needs to be in place before a premises licence is obtained from the licensing authority. Should a future application be accepted it would then be for*

that local authority to consider the application under its own merits which may lead to the application being accepted in its entirety, accepted with conditions or refused, much in the same way as any other premises licence would be considered.

The Chair moved, duly seconded, the recommendation set out in the report, to include the removal of the 'No Casino Policy' from the draft Statement of Policy.

On being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee agree to Option 1:

- a) Authorise Officers to formally adopt the draft Statement of Policy 2022-2025 with the removal of the No Casinos resolution and request that Full Council adopt the policy on 19 October for implementation from 14 January 2022 until 13 January 2025.

That public access to the report be immediate

CHAIR