

LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

Thursday 2nd November 2006
at 9.00am in the Town Hall.

A G E N D A

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Guidance note is circulated at page C of this agenda.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

Items of business notified to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 31st October 2006 which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered by the Committee as urgent business because of special circumstances.

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2006 (attached at page 4.1)

5. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY.

Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy (report and draft policy attached at page 5.1)

Following public consultation, the Committee is being recommended to approve the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for adoption by the Council

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

4th January 2007 (if there is business for which a meeting is needed).

Officers had intended to submit a report to the January meeting upon the setting of fees for licences issued under the Gambling Act. Officers understand informally that the publication of the Regulations that will set the fee bands and other matters will not be issued until after the meeting in January. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is not until May, after fees have to be set.

In these circumstances we need either:-

- (a) to convene a special meeting of the Committee to agree fees, or
- (b) to deal in some other way at the January Committee meeting (if there is business to warrant holding the meeting).

Officers will report further at this meeting if more information on timescales becomes available and the Committee will be asked how it wishes to proceed.

7. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

If the Committee wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for the Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Any enquiries on this agenda should be addressed to:-

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DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

What Interests do I need to declare in a meeting?

As a first step you need to declare any **personal interests** you have in a matter. You will then need to decide if you have a **prejudicial interest** in a matter.

What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if that matter affects the well-being or financial position of you, your relatives or your friends more than it would affect other people in the Council's area. A personal interest can affect you, your relatives or your friends positively or negatively. If you or they would stand to lose by the decision, you should also declare it.

You also have a personal interest in a matter if it relates to any interests which you must register.

What do I need to do if I have a personal interest in a matter?

You must declare it when you get to the item headed "Declaration of Interest" on the agenda or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

Can I stay in a meeting if I have a personal interest?

You can still take part in the meeting and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a prejudicial interest.

What is a prejudicial interest?

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public who knows the relevant facts would reasonably think is so significant that it is likely to affect your judgement of the public interest.

What is not a prejudicial interest?

The Code of Conduct sets out a small number of exceptions. Check with the Monitoring Officer if you are in any doubt.

What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?

If you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting, you must leave the room. You cannot take part in discussions on that matter or try to improperly influence anyone's decision on the matter.