

LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

Thursday 2nd November 2006

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Sareva), Councillors Armitage, Brundin, Cook, Goddard, Keen, Royce, Rundle and Young.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lois Stock and Daniel Smith (Legal and Democratic Services), Paul Kirkley and Tony Payne (Environmental Health Business Unit).

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bance, Campbell, Turner and Williams.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sareva declared a personal interest in all the items on the agenda as the holder of a Security Industry Association badge.

16. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

17. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The following issue was raised:

- (1) Meeting held on 30th June 2006 – the Democratic Services officer would investigate what had happened to the letter to the Secretary of State expressing the Committee's dissatisfaction with the inability under the Act for local authorities to consider market dominance and market conditions when determining licence applications; and, if not already written, that this would be prepared and dispatched as soon as possible.

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 30th June 2006.

18. GAMBLING ACT – PROGRAMME AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Council's responsibilities under the Gambling Act 2005.

Tony Payne presented the report to the Committee and gave the following additional information:-

- (1) Applications for premises licences under the legislation would be received from 30th April 2007, three months later than previously expected.
- (2) The Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy would still need to be published by 3rd January 2007, to take effect from 31st January 2007.
- (3) This needed to be determined by Council on November 20th, as only Council could adopt a "no casino" resolution.
- (4) The report before the Committee incorporated comments made as a result of public consultation.
- (5) In answer to a question, the officers confirmed that any future changes to the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy would be the subject of consultation, and there would be a period of notice before any changes actually took effect.
- (6) In answer to a question, the officers indicated that it was understood that the Licensing Authority could not require SIA registration of door staff at Bingo halls or casinos; (but this could be checked if required).

Resolved:-

- (1) To note the postponed date for the receipt of applications;
- (2) To note the arrangements for the future delegation of licensing functions;
- (3) To recommend that Council adopt a "no casino" resolution for inclusion in the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy;
- (4) To approve the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for adoption by Council, subject to amendment to reflect any consideration by Council of a "no casino" resolution
- (5) To recommend that Executive Board approve the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for adoption by Council, subject to that same amendment.

19 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved:-

- (1) To note that Officers had intended to submit a report to the January 4th meeting upon the setting of fees for licences issued under the Gambling Act. Officers understood informally that the publication of the Regulations that would set the fee bands and other matters would not be issued until after the meeting in January. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee was not until May, after fees have to be set;
- (2) That in view of the above, the meeting scheduled for 4th January would be rescheduled for the end of February, subject to the demands of other business at the time, and that officers would determine this in due course and inform members of the Committee;
- (3) That the start time for meetings would revert to 9.30am, as before.

20. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

None

The meeting started at 9am and ended at 9.17am