

LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE

Friday 17TH March 2006 at 9.30am.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Brett), Councillors Brundin, Goddard, Roberts, Royce, Sareva and Sinclair.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lois Stock and Daniel Smith (Legal and Democratic Services), Lee Carter and Paul Kirkley (Environmental Health Business Unit), and Jill Cramer (Transport and Parking Business Unit).

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Armitage, Baker, Christian and Turner.

In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair at the start of the meeting, the Committee nominated Councillor Brundin to act as Chair until Councillor Brett arrived.

20 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.

21 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

22 MINUTES.

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the Committee's meeting held on 20th January 2006 be confirmed as a correct record, with an amendment to show that Councillor Brundin was present as a full member of the Committee and not as a substitute.

23 GAMBLING ACT – IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Paul Kirkley (Environmental Health) presented this report to the Committee. He pointed out that responsibility would be split between local authorities and the Gambling Commission. It was anticipated that the Council would be responsible for the issue of fewer than 20 premises licences, but it

seemed likely that no committee meetings would be required, as these should all be dealt with under grandfather rights.

However, the Council had formally to adopt a Licensing Policy Statement. It was expected that this would take place at the Council meeting on 20th November, when the Council might also choose to resolve not to accept any applications for a casino in the City. The Licensing Committee could have a role to play in the approval of the public consultation draft of this statement; however this was subject to a tight timetable. The guidelines for consultation would be released on 1st May, and the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 19th May. Therefore, if there was no pressing business for that meeting, it might be prudent to arrange for the May meeting to be postponed for a few weeks.

Mr Kirkley explained to the Committee that the existing legislation remained in force until the new Act took over. Transitional arrangements were in place, but the Council had no immediate part to play. The Government had indicated that only 17 new casinos would be permitted nationwide. Should one be sought for Oxford, an expression of interest would need to be lodged by the end of March.

Resolved:-

- (1) To note the report;
- (2) To ask that the meeting scheduled for 19th May be re-arranged for a later date.

24 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following dates:-

19th May 2006 (to be confirmed subject to minute 23 above)
7th September 2006
4th January 2007

The meeting started at 9.30am and ended at 9.55am.