

LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 19 February 2013

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Clarkson (Chair), Armitage (Vice-Chair), Campbell, Cook, Coulter, Curran, Goddard, Hollick, Lygo, Royce, Sinclair and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Daniel Smith (Law and Governance) and Julian Alison (Licensing Team Leader)

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Noted that Councillor Mark Lygo would be late.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19. UPDATE ON LICENSING AUTHORITY ACTIVITY - SEPTEMBER 2012 - DECEMBER 2012

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended). Julian Alison (Team Leader) presented the report to the Committee and explained the background to it. He answered questions about some of the premises with which the Licensing Team worked. He added that generally management at premises was very good, but that sometimes staff members were inexperienced and this led to problems. Enforcement had increased and non-compliance was now in decline.

There would be a full day of training for Councillors on 22nd May – further information would follow in due course.

Councillor Sinclair highlighted the need for there to be some activity around the time that the majority of foreign language students arrive, especially focussed on off-licenses.

Resolved to note the report.

20. REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended). Julian Alison (Team Leader) presented the report to the Committee and explained the background to it. The Council had to review its Gambling Licensing Policy on a three-yearly basis, hence this report.

The Committee considered the matter of the “no casino” resolution. It was felt that it would be helpful to have some evidence upon which to base any further decision, before making any recommendation to CEB and Council. The

Committee wished to reserve its comments on this matter pending further consideration and discussion.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Agree the Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for consultation (dates to be arranged);
- (2) Authorise the Head of Environmental Development to undertake the required consultation;
- (3) Reserve comments on the "No Casino" resolution pending further discussion and consideration of consultation responses at a subsequent meeting.

21. LICENCE FEES 2013-14

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended). Julian Alison (Team Leader) presented the report to the Committee and explained the background to it. The inflationary rate of 4.5% to be set by the Council was provided by Finance. There are only a few gambling establishments in the City, and any increase would add hundreds, rather than thousands, of pounds to the Council's income.

The Committee felt that it would be useful to know the evidential basis for any proposed percentage increase in future.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Note the licence fees set by statute;
- (2) Agree the licence fees for 2013/14 as set out in the report.

22. MINUTES

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2012.

The Committee noted that it would be useful to see whether and how other authorities progress the implementation of a late night levy, and a report on this will be provided in 12 month's time.

As this was the last meeting of the Council year for this Committee, the Chair, Councillor Clarkson, thanked all members for their work and support during the past 12 months. The Committee also expressed appreciation to Julian for his work and that of his team; and in particular for the regular bulletins detailing current licence applications.

23. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Still to be set for the new Council Year.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.51 pm

This page is intentionally left blank