

MINUTES OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

4 SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESENT:

Councillors Cade (Chairman), Mrs Avis, Mrs Bragg, Brader, Miss Dumbleton, Keeling, Picker, Poole (substitute for Councillor Mrs Garcia), Mrs Roberts, Mrs Roodhouse and Ms Watson-Merret

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were approved and signed by the Chairman:

Licensing and Safety Committee 3 July 2018; and
Licensing Sub-Committee (General) 18 July 2018 and 15 August 2018.

9. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Garcia and Mrs Nash.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

11. REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environment and Public Realm (Part 1 - agenda item 4) concerning a review of the draft Statement of Gambling Policy.

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to publish a Gambling Policy on which licensing decisions would be based and to review its Policy every three years.

The Policy was effective until 30 January 2019 and was due for review. A full public consultation was currently in progress and the view of the Committee was required. Members also had the opportunity to respond to the consultation prior to the deadline of 12 October 2018.

The draft Policy was compiled within the Gambling Commission's guidance and regulations and reviewed in conjunction with other Warwickshire district councils and Coventry City Council.

There were only a couple of minor alterations suggested to the current Policy at paragraphs 4.6/4.7 and 29.4.

Members were informed that gambling was not one of the key priority areas in terms of licensing issues and the legislation was clear that representations could only be made on legal grounds and not moral arguments.

The Policy places the onus on the gambling trade to provide sufficient information, such as risk assessments or door guards, to evidence how risks would be managed.

It was noted that there was insufficient evidence in Rugby to suggest that any Local Area Profiles would be necessary.

Appropriate action to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling would be dependent on the circumstances and level of risk. There were strict controls in place to protect children but vulnerable people could be a greater issue. There were a range of options available for premises but there were other means for individuals to access betting such as through mobile phones. Betting companies were keen to protect their reputations and have a number of management controls in place.

The Policy does not cover national lottery schemes which were governed by the Gambling Commission. The Council would have responsibility for the management and compliance of any local council-led lottery scheme which would need to be licensed by the Gambling Commission.

The Committee approved the draft policy subject to information on the categories relating to the levels of monies that can be won or put into gaming machines being added.

The next stage would be for the Committee to consider any responses to the consultation at its meeting on 6 November 2018 prior to the submission of the draft Policy to Cabinet and full Council.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the draft policy be amended subject to the points minuted above; and
- (2) a report be brought back to this committee in November to consider any responses received to the full public consultation and to approve the draft Policy for submission to Cabinet and Council in December 2018.

CHAIRMAN