

MINUTES of the meeting of Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 6 October 2009 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Robert Gledhill (Chair), John Purkiss (Vice-Chair), Charles Curtis, Peter Harris and Sue Gray

Apologies: Councillors Hardiman, Ojetola and Lawrence

In attendance: R Galliers, Senior Licensing Officer
L Magill, Head of Public Protection
B Clarke, Principal Democratic Services Officer
A Creswell, Licensing Solicitor, Legal Services

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Licensing Committee, held on 16 March 2009, were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

2 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair informed Members that there were no items of urgent business.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

4 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Licensing Officer was invited to present his report which set out two recommendations to the Committee. During his presentation it was noted that 3 responses had been received as a result of the consultation process, two of whom had indicated that they had no comment. The other comment received had been attached to the Agenda at page 87.

The Licensing Officer took Members through the suggested changes which had been highlighted within the report, noting that the comments received had been taken into consideration and inserted. These could be found at pages 25, 27 and 29.

Members were also informed that where some items were written in italics, this indicated suggested replacements from LACORS. Additionally Members were informed that other changes had included removal of information in relation to the transitional period, which was no longer relevant and that the main changes were in the Foreword at page 17.

Members expressed their thanks to the officer for the work this had entailed.

In relation to part b) of the recommendation, Members debated the subject and concluded that it would be preferable to slightly amend the wording which was to read:

“Recommends to Council that it passes a resolution to consider any future applications for a casino premises licence” as Members agreed unanimously that they were not content with the current wording of the recommendation which outlined that the “Committee should recommend to Council that it passes a resolution to issue/not to issue casino premises licences.

This change, it was believed, would ‘leave the door open’ should any licences become available, at the current time there were none, and should Thurrock ever deem to change its opinion towards permitting a casino within the area. It was believed by Members that all Councillors should be invited to have a say on the matter, rather than ruling the matter out completely.

In bringing the matter to a close, it was agreed unanimously that the recommendations be approved, subject to the slight amendment to 1.1 (b) on page 6 of the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- a **Approve the draft of the Gambling Act Statement of Principles and recommends to Council that it be adopted and implemented as from 14 January 2010.**
- b **Recommends to Council that it passes a resolution to consider any future applications for a casino premise licences.**

The meeting finished at 7.25pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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or alternatively e-mail bclarke@thurrock.gov.uk**