

Minutes of the Licensing Committee

9th June, 2006 at 9.30 a.m.
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Silvester (Chair);
Councillor Dr Crumpton, Mrs Edis, Mrs A Hughes, R L
Horton, Mrs Macklin, Sakhi and G Turton.

Apologies: Councillors Allen, Mrs James, Rouf and R L Horton.

4/06 **Implementation of the Gambling Act 2005**

The Committee considered a report on the Implementation of the Gambling Act 2005.

In Sandwell currently there are approximately 100 premises, 300 additional public houses and other establishments of this type with “amusement with prizes” machines, and 160 lotteries registrations that will be subject to the new gambling legislation.

The report outlined the timetable for implementation, the requirement to prepare a Gambling Policy and the resource implications.

The timetable for implementation of the Act is set out below and will follow a similar process to that of the recently introduced Licensing Act 2003:-

- March / April 2006 - Draft Gambling Policy prepared for consultation;
- May 2006 – Member / Officer Training seminar;
- June to August 2006 - Licensing Authorities consult on their draft Gambling policies over 3 month period;
- September 2006 - Finalise gambling policy, report to Licensing Committee, relevant CAT Member, and Cabinet;
- October / November 2006 - Approval of Gambling Policy by Council;

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- December 2006 - Publish gambling Policy;
- January 2007- Transition period commences, and date for receipt of first applications;
- Autumn 2007 - New licences under Gambling Act 2005 go live.

The key responsibility for the preparation, production, publishing and implementation of a three year Gambling Policy has to be carried out in accordance with issued guidance.

Resource implications of implementing the Gambling Act 2005 will not be identified until further details are provided regarding licence fees however, it is currently anticipated that resource costs are likely to be largely administrative, with minimal enforcement being required or undertaken, involving the appointment of one Licensing Officer at Scale 4/5 and set up cost of approximately £5,000.

Licensing Authorities must consult the Police, Fire Authority and persons representing people likely to be affected, as well as representatives of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the area. The list of those to be consulted is to be kept deliberately wide to encourage Licensing Authorities to undertake a comprehensive consultation exercise. Town Committees would be one of the places consultation would take place. It was envisaged in the future a list would be available on a website of all the premises granted a license.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the timetable for implementation, the requirement to prepare and publish a Gambling Policy and matters raised regarding resources be noted;
- (2) that a report outlining the finalised Gambling Policy be submitted to the Committee in due course.
- (3) that the report be referred to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Partnerships.

(The meeting ended at 9.50 a.m.)

*Contact Officer: Lorna Campbell
Democratic Services Unit
0121-569 3261*