

Minutes of the Licensing Committee

10th June, 2016 at 10.00am
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Allen (Chair);
Councillors Dr Crumpton, Frear, Goult and Piper.

Apologies: Councillors K Davies, S Davies, Lewis, Preece
and Tranter.

3/16 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March, 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/16 **Gambling Act 2015 Local Area Profiles**

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) required the Council, as the Licensing Authority, to prepare and publish its own Statement of Principles as to how it intended to carry out its licensing functions under the Act.

The Council's current Statement of Principles was approved by full Council 20th October, 2015.

In 2015, the Gambling Commission introduced new provisions in its social responsibility code within the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice, which required gambling operators to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and to have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks.

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Although gambling was a legal entertainment activity it could, in some locations, have a negative impact on individuals and the wider community. The Licensing Authority had also been looking to identify areas where there may be negative impact by developing local area profiles.

The Licensing Authority considered that these local risk assessments were a key component of the overall assessment and management of the local risks.

The Licensing Authority recognised that it was not a mandatory requirement to have a local area profile however it was believed that a local area profile would assist licence holders in producing their risk assessments. In order to produce a local area profile, the Licensing Authority requested data from a number of bodies, including responsible authorities, in order to assess any potential and actual risks relating to gambling within the area.

Enquiries with relevant organisations had not revealed any data to suggest that there are any areas within the Borough that could be identified as a risk. However, the local area profile plan was required to identify any potential risks that might arise, therefore, in light of current research into gambling, the Licensing Authority had identified the following potential risk areas and provided additional information to assist licence holders:-

- Children, Adolescents and Young Adults
- Mental Health
- Unemployment

The data would be published on the Councils website, along with guidance for applicants which set out how they should use the data in preparing their risk assessments.

Resolved that the approach taken in implementing the Local Area Profiles be endorsed.

5/16

Annual Report of the Licensing Committee and Licensing Panels for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

The Committee considered the proposed Annual Report of the Licensing Committee and Licensing Panels for the 2015/2016 municipal year.

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Members discussed the annual report and concluded that it included the pertinent points required to enable Council to gain an understanding of the business conducted.

Resolved that the Licensing Committee/Licensing Panel Annual Report for the 2015/2016 municipal year be approved and submitted to Council on 19th July, 2016.

(The meeting ended at 11.15am)

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