

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held in
Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney,
at 2 pm on **Tuesday 2 October 2018**

PRESENT

Councillors: Norman MacRae MBE (Chairman); Steve Good (Vice-Chairman); Harry Eaglestone, David Harvey, Ed James, Liz Leffman, Elizabeth Poskitt, Alex Postan and Geoff Saul.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 29 September 2015, 18 May 2016, 26 April 2017 and 16 May 2018 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hilary Fenton and Ted Fenton.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers in items to be considered at the meeting.

8. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no submissions from members of the public in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

9. REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager, Professional Services, which detailed the consultation which had taken place on the proposed revised Statement of Licensing Policy, and to which the proposed Statement was attached as Annex A. The Committee was reminded that the statement had to be reviewed at intervals no greater than five years, and that the Statement was required to be approved by Council.

The Licensing Officer advised the Committee that the main proposed changes were (i) the amendment of contact details; (ii) the amendment of legislative changes; and (iii) the inclusion of safeguarding advice, and also drew attention to the fact that no written comments had been submitted during the consultation.

The Committee -

RECOMMENDED: That the proposed revised Statement of Licensing Policy set out in Annex A to the report be approved and adopted.

10. REVIEW OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager, Professional Services, which detailed the consultation which had taken place on the proposed revised Gambling Licensing Policy Statement of Principles, and to which the proposed revised Statement was attached as Annex A. One response had been submitted, which was included in the report.

Arising from paragraph 3.3, the Chairman stated that he understood and acknowledged the reasons for the alignment of policies with partner Councils, but considered that it was

important that Oxfordshire and Thames Valley Police Area considerations were not overlooked as a consequence. The Licensing Officer emphasised that decision making remained locally based, and that West Oxfordshire, Cotswold and Forest of Dean Districts were broadly similar in terms of the issues and risks associated with the requirements and provisions of the Gambling Act 2005; as well as referring to the fact that there were compliance managers in both Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. If circumstances necessitated it, West Oxfordshire District Council could amend its Policy Statement to reflect local issues, and a review could be undertaken at any time, and did not have to await the three-year review required by the legislation.

The “no casino” resolution referred to in the report and in recommendation (b) was explained and, in response to a question, the Licensing Officer outlined the ways in which the Policy Statement requirements relating to vulnerable persons were met, following which the Committee -

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the proposed revised Gambling Licensing Policy Statement of Principles set out in Annex A to the report be approved and adopted, subject to:
 - (i) the reference to the Data Protection Act 1998 being updated to Data Protection Act 2018; and
 - (ii) the second paragraph under 14.8 relating to casinos being amended to read: “*At present this Licensing Authority has passed a resolution not to issue casino premises licences generally in the District. However, the Licensing Authority reserves the right to review this situation and may, at some time in the future, revoke that resolution. Any such revocation would be made by the Full Council and this Statement of Principles would be updated*”; and
- (b) That a “no- casino resolution” be adopted for inclusion in the published Gambling Act 2005 Licensing Policy Statement of Principles.

The meeting closed at 2:15 pm

Chairman