

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ALCOHOL & GAMBLING LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 5 February 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Flavell (Chair); Councillor Sargeant (Deputy Chair); Councillors Beardsworth, Caswell, G Eales, Haque, Larratt and Walker

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Duffy.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

None.

6. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Environmental Health & Licensing Manager presented a report to the Committee and elaborated thereon. The Committee were advised that the new Gambling Policy differed from previous ones in that it incorporated outline guidance for operators about which factors should be considered in local risk assessments submitted in support of applications.

Proposed outline guidance on factors were as follows:

- Locations of services for children i.e. schools, playgrounds, community centres and other areas where children gather;
- The demographics of the area in relation to vulnerable groups;
- Whether the premises is in an area subject to high levels of crime and/or disorder, and;
- Local risk assessments should show how vulnerable people, including people with gambling dependencies are protected.

The draft policy was put out to consultation to statutory consultees and other interested parties and at the time of agenda publication, 2 responses had been received.

In relation to new casino premises licences, the Committee heard that they had 2 options:

- Not adopt a “No Casino” resolution
- Adopt a “No Casino” resolution; this would have to be ratified by the authority as a whole.

In response to questions, the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager explained that passing a “No Casino” resolution would mean existing casinos would remain but would affect new applications.

Members discussed the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments received from the consultation on the reviewed Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 – 2022 be noted.
2. That the adoption of the updated policy be recommended to Full Council
3. That the existing policy of not adopting a “No Casino” resolution under section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 be retained in the updated policy.
4. That local risk assessments carried out by operators contain outline guidance on relevant considerations.