

At a meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY 9th APRIL, 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Fletcher in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, I. Galbraith, P. Gibson, Heron, Johnston, Lawson, Scaplehorn and Turner.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Elliott, Emerson, Howe, O'Brien and M. Turton.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5th February, 2018

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th February, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy

The Executive Director of Economy and Place submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval from the Committee for the Licensing Department to undertake a consultation exercise upon the Council's Draft Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Reading, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, presented the report and advised that there was a requirement to refresh the statement of licensing policy every three years and that as part of the refresh consultation on the draft policy needed to be undertaken.

Councillor P. Gibson referred to the changes to stakes for betting machines which was being discussed in parliament; Mr Reading advised that the fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) currently had a maximum stake of £100 and there had been a

consultation exercise undertaken in respect of reviewing the stakes and the social responsibility of operators; the council had responded to the consultation with a preference that the maximum stakes be reduced to £2. The gambling commission had suggested that the stakes be cut to £50 and the matter was currently with the government for discussion. Most of the parties involved were agreeable to a significant reduction in the maximum stakes.

2. RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and approval be given to the undertaking of a consultation exercise upon the Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005.

(Signed) J. FLETCHER,
Chairman.