

**At a Meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Old in the Chair

Councillors Francis, P. Gibson, Gofton, G. Hall, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, Speding, Trueman, J. Walton, Whalen and A. Wilson.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Errington, D. Richardson and J. Scott.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009**

1. RESOLVED that minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed Members on the requirement to carry out a consultation exercise on the Council's draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards & Licensing Manager, presented the report. He advised that Section 349 of the Gambling Act required all authorities to prepare and publish a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the act. The current statement was agreed by Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006 and was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2007. The Act requires the statement to be reviewed every three years. In the three years the statement had been in place there had not been any need to use it.

Councillor P. Gibson stated that he had thoroughly read the document and had also visited the casino. He was concerned that the entrance might not comply with the policy as it had a common entrance with the cinema and this would allow children to be near to the entrance to the casino.

Mr Terrett advised that the casino was a current licence holder and this policy only applied to new applications or reviews of existing licenses. The policy was based on advice from the Gambling Commission and could not be applied retrospectively.

Iain Cavanagh, Licensing and Enforcement Officer, added that from the entrance gambling cannot be seen taking place and this was covered by a condition on the existing license.

Councillor G. Hall queried the 'No Casinos Resolution' and expressed concerns that casinos could attract people to gambling.

Mr Terrett advised that the casino had been licensed using grandfather rights, there had been an application for a casino at what is not The Point, this had been rejected. Unless the law was changed then it would not be possible to have any more casinos. The rights for a large casino had not been awarded to Sunderland. The Council could have invoked the no casinos rule but had not.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the Licensing Department be given authority to undertake a consultation exercise on the draft Statement of Principles.

(Signed) S. OLD,  
Chairman.