



# Licensing Committee

Monday, 5 November 2018

## MINUTES

**Present:**

Councillors Roger Bennett, Joanne Beecham, Pat Witherspoon, Julian Grubb, Pattie Hill, Antonia Pulsford and Yvonne Smith

**Also Present:**

**Officers:**

Dave Etheridge

**Committee Services Officer:**

Sarah Sellers

**21. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON REVISED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

Members received a report setting out the outcome of the consultation exercise regarding the Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Principles, and seeking approval of the Revised Draft Statement of Principles attached to the report at Appendix 2.

The Senior Practitioner (Licensing) (SPL), Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) presented the report and advised Members that the current Statement of Principles for the Council had come into force in January 2016. Under the Gambling Act 2005 there was a requirement to renew the Statement of Principles every three years. Accordingly, an updated version would need to be adopted to come into effect no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

It was noted that Members at Licensing Committee had approved a Draft Statement of Principles for consultation purposes on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The consultation had been sent to the relevant statutory consultees including the police, responsible authorities and other public bodies. The consultation had also been open to members of the public and had been made available on the Council's website and publicised through social media and the local press. The consultation period had run from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

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Chair

The SPL summarised the two substantive responses which had been received from the Public Health Team at Worcestershire County Council and a consultant specialising in gambling matters.

The Public Health Team had requested some minor changes to the wording in part 10 of the Statement of Principles. It was noted that this section dealt with engagement between Public Health and the Council with regard to addressing gambling-related harm. The changes had been suggested by Public Health to reflect a firmer commitment to engagement with them in this area. It was confirmed that the changes had been agreed and incorporated into the amended Revised Draft Statement of Principles.

With regard to the second response from the consultant, it was explained that the point raised regarding the need for Basic Disclosure certificates to be provided where unlicensed family entertainment centres were operated by limited companies had been accepted. Accordingly paragraph 19.5 of the Revised Draft Statement of Principles had been amended to require each director of the company to provide a Basic Disclosure Certificate.

Regarding the second paragraph of the response, it was confirmed that the issues referred to had been considered, but officers had decided not to make any changes to the Revised Draft Statement of Principles. In forming that view they had taken into consideration:-

- That the wording of the Revised Draft Statement of Principles would not imply that gambling premises are inappropriate in town centres;
- That Part 10 of the Revised Draft Statement of Principles acknowledged that Public Health is not a responsible authority; and
- That the wording of Part 10 with regard to public health issues was appropriate, and each individual application would be considered on its merits.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

**The Revised Draft Statement of Principles at Appendix 2 be approved and published.**