



## **MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Monday 2 July 2018 at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Ahmed (Chair), Councillor Allie (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Chohan, RS Patel, Kennelly, McLeish, Long, W Mitchell Murray and Maurice

#### **1. Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

Apologies were received from Councillor Hector.

#### **2. Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest

#### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 May 2018, were approved as an accurate record of the meeting

#### **4. Review of the Council's Gambling Licence**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment regarding the review of the Statement of Gambling Principles. Given the London Borough of Brent was a licensing authority under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act), Section 349 of the Act requires licensing authorities to prepare and publish every three years a Statement of Principles that sets out their policy for dealing with applications and regulating gambling premises within their borough. The Act also requires licensing authorities to keep the Statement under review from time to time.

The Current Statement of Principles was published in 2016 which required it to be updated and republished by January 2019.

Members were asked to comment on the draft Statement of Gambling Principles, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, after which a 12-week consultation period would take place ending on 27 September 2018. The Committee noted that the draft Statement of Gambling Principles would be consulted with the parties listed under paragraphs 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 of the report.

The review had taken into account any changes to any relevant codes of practice and the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. Members were advised that over the last two years the Council had received two applications for Adult Gaming Centres (AGC). Planning consent in relation to the Walm Lane application, had been granted on appeal with the licensing application for the AGC granted with conditions, although members noted that the planning regime would not be a consideration when determining any licensing application.

Having requested and received an update on the application relating to 232 Neasden Lane, the Committee was advised that the Code of Practice required all operators to undertake risk assessments and take appropriate measures to mitigate the risks identified. These include, proximity to schools, addiction clinics etc.

Members were informed that the Licensing team had worked to identify high vulnerability areas when assessing applications with all operators required to have risk assessments in place, and inspections carried out to check their suitability. The Statement of Principles would inform operators what was expected of them and how the Licensing Authority would enforce these.

The review of the Policy had resulted in changes to the layout of the document which had been designed to improve its format and strengthen the safeguarding requirements with the Statement aimed at promoting the following three objectives as set out in the Gambling Act 2005:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
- Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;

The following comments/issues were highlighted by Members of the Committee:

- (a) Concern to ensure safeguards were in place relating to the proximity of premises close to schools. Whilst not grounds for refusal, Yogini Patel advised that operators would be required to have risk assessments and mitigations in place designed to protect and safeguard children and prevent them from using the premises. In addition, the Government had recently announced a review of gambling advertisements, which would also assist in this respect.
- (b) In response to a query regarding the review of risk assessments the Committee was advised that a change in circumstances relating to the premises would require a review of the relevant risk assessment.
- (c) In terms of a joined up approach towards inspection regimes, the Committee was advised that a robust and joined up approach was in place with the police involving joint visits and work with the Gambling Commission, including reviews and assessments of the personal license holders.
- (d) In relation to lotteries and raffles, it was confirmed that the National Lottery was not regulated via the Licensing Authority but a number of small raffle licenses were issued.
- (e) In terms of a proposed reduction in betting levels, the Government's proposals had been acknowledged within the Executive Summary of the Statement, although the final policy would require updating once any change had been formally agreed.

- (f) A number of corrections were highlighted to the draft Statement at section 8.21 with a duplication to be removed in relation to the conditions identified in section 10.6.4 of the document.

As no further issues or comments were highlighted the Committee thanked Yogini Patel for the report and **AGREED** to endorse the draft Statement of Gambling Principles 2019-2022) for consultation, subject to the comments and corrections identified above.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm

COUNCILLOR AHMED  
Chair