

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held in Committee Room 1 on Wednesday 20 December 2017 at 2:20 pm

PRESENT

Councillor J I Hutchinson
(Chair in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

T Cessford
B Crosby
R M Gibson

G Roughead
C Seymour
K Stow

ALSO PRESENT

J Riddle - Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Resilience

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

T Hardy
N Masson
K Norris
D Sayer

Licensing Manager
Principal Solicitor
Democratic Services Officer
Business Compliance & Public Safety Manager

04. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nisbet, Parry, Pattison, Purvis, Richards and Sharp.

05. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 25 October 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Ch.'s Initials.....

06. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

(1) DDCMS - Consultation on Proposal for Changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures

The report advised members of the publication of the above consultation paper by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DDCMS). (A copy of the report is attached to the signed minutes.)

The Business Compliance & Public Safety Manager provided some background information and gave a brief summary of the report which recommended that the authority did not respond to the consultation. He advised that, when the consultation closed, the authority would review the gambling policy and it would be brought to a future committee.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) the authority does not respond to the consultation.

(2) Gambling Commission - Publication of Strategy for 2018-2021 - Making Gambling Fairer and Safer

The report advised members of the publication of the above strategy by the Gambling Commission (a copy of the report is attached to the signed minutes).

The Business Compliance & Public Safety Manager referred to some issues which were being investigated by the Competition and Markets Authority, details of which were set out in the report. The strategy set out the Commission's regulatory focus and commitment in five priority areas and, although it did not have any immediate implications for the authority, it was likely that the commission would produce new guidance to support their aims. The committee would be advised of any changes as they developed.

RESOLVED that the strategy be noted.

(3) The Government Response to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003

The report advised members of the publication of the above Government Response (a copy of the report is attached to the signed minutes).

The Business Compliance & Public Safety Manager said the Government Response had looked at a wide range of issues and, whilst a lot of concerns had been raised, the Government had made it clear that it was not minded to accept many of the recommendations. On the issue of minimum unit pricing being introduced in England and Wales, the Government had said it would wait

to see results and the impact it had in Scotland before any similar controls were considered.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

CHAIR:

DATE: