

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held in Committee Room 1 on Wednesday 20 June 2018 at 2:50 pm

PRESENT

Councillor J I Hutchinson
(Chair in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

T Cessford
B Crosby
R Gibson
J Lang
K Parry

W Pattison
M Richards
G Roughead
C Seymour
T S Wilson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

H Bowers
T Hardy
N Masson
D Sayer
P Soderquest

Democratic Services Officer
Licensing Manager
Solicitor, Regulation
Business Compliance & Public Safety Manager
Head of Housing and Public Protection

01. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The membership and terms of reference of the Licensing Committee as agreed by full Council on 2 May 2018 were reported for information.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Purvis, Sharp and Stow.

03. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 25 April 2018, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

04. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

(1) Gambling Act 2005 - Review of the Statement of Principle

Approval was sought to consult on the proposed draft Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 which has been prepared in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and associated guidance. (Report attached as **Appendix A**).

David Sayer, Business Compliance and Public Safety Manager introduced the report. The Authority had an obligation to publish a statement of the principles they proposed to apply under the Gambling Act.

The Council's current Statement of Principles was due to be republished in January 2019 and in preparation the Authority must take into account the Gambling Commission guidance and conduct a consultation. Officers proposed a 12 week consultation in line with the guidance and a list of the responsible authorities were listed at the end of the document. Following consultation, a further report would be brought back to the committee.

Councillor Crosby moved the proposal which was seconded by Councillor Pattison and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the draft statement for statutory consultation be approved.

(2) Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport - Government Response to the consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures

The Committee was informed of the Government response to the consultation. (Report attached as **Appendix B**).

Members were reminded that the consultation was the subject of a report presented to the Committee in December last year with subsequent consultation and referred to recent discussions in the media regarding the appropriate level for the maximum stake on fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs).

The review was to ensure that the Government struck the right balance between a sector of the economy which could grow and one that was socially responsible and doing all it should to protect consumers and communities. The Government wanted to focus on reducing gambling related harm, protecting the vulnerable and making sure that those affected got the help they needed.

The Government response was the decision to reduce the maximum stake on FOBTs from £100 to £2. The industry had warned that this would lead to premises closing and reductions in employment and it was anticipated that there may be a reduction in licensing fee income as bookmakers were likely to remove those machines which may become less profitable.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

(3) Licensing Act 2003 - Revised Section 182 Guidance

Members were informed of the revised Section 182 Guidance issued by the Home Office. (Report attached as **Appendix C**).

David Sayer, Business Compliance and Public Safety Manager introduced the report and advised there had been a number of revisions to the guidance as case law and cases were identified.

The main changes were outlined as in the report.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

CHAIR:

DATE: