

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Statutory Licensing Committee** held in Committee Room 1A ,
County Hall, Durham on **Monday 29 January 2024 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Brown (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors R Adcock-Forster, L Brown, C Hampson, C Hunt, E Waldock and M Wilson

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Griffiths.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitutes.

3 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Review of the Council's Statement of Gambling Principles

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which sought approval to undertake public consultation leading to the production of a revised Statement of Gambling Principles (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Licensing Manager advised that the Gambling Act 2005 requires that local licensing authorities prepare and publish a Statement of Gambling Principles (a 'gambling policy) every three years. Durham adopted its current gambling policy in December 2021 and therefore a new policy must be adopted no later than December 2024.

In addition, there was a statutory requirement that consultation must take place prior to a new policy being adopted and it was therefore proposed that this would take place in the Spring of 2024 for a period of 12 weeks.

In discussing the existing policy members noted that whilst the existing policy remained fit for purpose there were aspects which required updating along with strengthening links to Public Health related aims and noting issues around the prevalence of online gambling.

Resolved:

That the Committee approves and authorises the commencement of the statutory consultation process relating to the consideration and adoption of a new gambling policy.

5 Review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which sought approval to undertake public consultation to the production of a revised Licensing Act policy statement (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Licensing Act 2003 which creates the regulatory regime for the sale and supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and the provision of late-night refreshment, requires that licensing authorities prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy (a 'licensing policy) every five years. Durham adopted its current licensing policy on 23rd October 2019 and therefore a new policy must be adopted and published no later than 22nd October 2024.

It was explained that there was also a statutory requirement that a consultation exercise must take place prior to a new policy being adopted and it was therefore proposed that this would take place between February and April 2024.

Resolved:

That the Committee approves and authorises the commencement of the statutory consultation process relating to the consideration and adoption of a new licensing policy.