

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Committee** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 14 November 2016 at 2.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor C Carr (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Maitland (Vice-Chair), A Batey, D Boyes, B Glass, B Graham, C Hampson, D Hicks, I Jewell, B Kellett, T Nearney, L Marshall, P May and A Willis

Also Present:

O Cleugh – Consumer Protection Manager
S Buston – Solicitor (Litigation)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Blakey, O Gunn, J Hart, A Hopgood, K Hopper, J Lee and D Stoker.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2016 and 14 March 2016

The Minutes of the meetings held on 14 January and 14 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

4 Review of the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection which requested the Committee to consider a Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) for 2016-2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Consumer Protection Manager reported that the Council was responsible for issuing premises licences in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005, and the Council was required to prepare and publish a statement of principles every three years.

In February 2015 the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice were revised and formalised the need for operators to consider local risks. The Government also recently introduced changes to the legislation to increase the stake and prizes for certain gaming machines. These new provisions had been

incorporated into the Policy and Appendix 4 of the report highlighted the proposed revisions.

The report gave details of the consultation exercise carried out and the response received was included in Appendix 3.

Councillor Glass referred to fixed odds betting terminals and the potential harm of excessive use on families. The Member asked if the Licensing Authority could liaise more closely with the Police and Social Services to protect families. The Consumer Protection Manager advised that at present data which demonstrated the harm caused by these machines was not available. The Licensing Authority already worked closely with other partners but it needed to capture data in relation to the causes of harm in the first instance. He hoped that this was an issue that the Government would seek to address as part of its review into gaming machines, together with cumulative impact.

Councillor Boyes asked how the Licensing Authority would ensure that operators completed risk assessments. The Committee was informed that existing operators in the County were responsible and compliant, and the Licensing Authority would work with premises to ensure that the new requirement was satisfied. A routine Inspection Programme would help to avoid the need for enforcement action.

Resolved:

That the proposed revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 as set out in Appendix 5 in the report be agreed and recommended to Council for adoption.