

Licensing Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2016

Present

Councillor Longsdon (in the Chair)
Councillors Barrett, Connolly, Evans, Grimshaw, Hassan, Hughes, Loughman, Ludford, Madeleine Monaghan, Paul and Stone.

Apologies

Councillor S. Judge.

LC/16/7 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 6 June 2016 were submitted for consideration.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2016.

LC/16/6 Licensing Update report

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee. The report provided the Licensing Committee with a brief overview of topical information relevant to premises licensing functions of the licensing authority.

The Principal Licensing Officer explained the background and scope of the report. This report provided the Licensing Committee with topical information relevant to premises licensing functions of the licensing authority.

The Principal Licensing Officer drew the attention of the Committee to significant changes to the legislation with regard to so called "Legal Highs" with new criminal offences for possession, production, supplying or importing such psychoactive substances being created by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Principal Licensing Officer also explained the implications of the Immigration Act 2016 which introduced new requirements aimed at eradicating immigration related offences in the workplace and which will have an implication for Licensing Authorities. One of the significant changes is that the Secretary of State will now become a responsible authority in relation to the Licensing functions of the Licensing Authority.

The Committee discussed the request from the House of Lords Select Committee to submit their views on whether the Licensing Act 2003 has achieved its original intentions as well as comment on several specific issues detailed in the report.

The Committee received a briefing from representatives of the Association of British Bookmakers and the Beacon Counselling Trust on the 2nd Gamble Aware week to take place 18 to 23 July 2016.

The Committee discussed the new responsible gaming machine prompts which alert users to their activity after a shorter period of time and a smaller spend per machine. The Committee also discussed whether support for potentially problem gambling integrated with Domestic Violence support networks and were informed that there was a current ongoing pilot scheme in collaboration with the Cheshire Police Force that was looking at this issue. The Committee also discussed other aspects of the report that related to the usefulness of the Late Night Levy and the effectiveness of security arrangements in gambling establishments.

Decision

1. To note the report.
2. To request officers to prepare a response to the House of Lords review of the Licensing Act 2003 set out in Section 4 of the report.
3. To note support for Gamble Aware Week.