

Licensing Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018

Present

Councillor Ludford (in the Chair)

Barrett, Chohan, Grimshaw, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Madeleine Monaghan, Reid and Stone.

Apologies

Councillors Evans, T. Judge, Lynch and McHale.

LC/18/6 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2018 were submitted for consideration.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018.

LC/18/7 Review of Gambling Policy 2019-2021

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee, which presented the Committee with a draft statement of the revised Gambling Act Policy and informed them of the method of consultation that is proposed will be implemented.

Members were aware that under the Gambling Act the Council, as Licensing Authority, is required to produce a policy every three years setting out how it intends to implement the Act. The current policy is in effect until January 2019 and so the next version is required to be in place from then.

The proposed revised policy aims to support the successful delivery of the Our Manchester – The Manchester Strategy through a number of measures relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives, including:

- Requiring operators to take a variety of relevant risk factors such as levels of deprivation or crime and antisocial behaviour in local risk assessments to support communities and improve the areas in which they live.
- Recognising the ethnic diversity of areas and ensuring appropriate responsible gambling information is provided in relevant languages.
- Supporting the licensing objective preventing children and vulnerable persons from being harmed by gambling to achieve our aim for a progressive and equitable city which is for everyone in the city to have the same opportunities, life chances and potential to lead safe, healthy, happy and fulfilled lives, no matter where they are born or live. This means reducing the disparities between different areas of the city. The most successful societies in the long term are those that are the least polarised.

The main changes proposed are:

- Change in layout so it is easier to read
- Expectations of operators in relation to content of local area risk assessments
- Removing duplicated information
- Replacing reference of Data Protection Act with new GDPR
- Alignment with Our Manchester strategy

The main changes to the policy are summarised as follows:

- Clarification of maximum machine entitlement for Bingo and Adult Gaming Centre premises
- Update of Responsible Authority contact details

The draft policy attached to the report had been prepared for public consultation, which will take place over a 10 week period. The Committee were satisfied that the draft policy was ready for public consultation and agreed that this should take place as soon as practical.

Decision

1. To note the report and draft policy
2. To agree that the policy be sent for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks, in addition to consulting the following parties.
 - The Responsible Authorities who are consulted on Gambling applications in Manchester (GMP, Planning, Environmental Health, Child Safeguarding Board, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, HM Revenue and Customs, Gambling Commission)
 - All Ward Councillors of Manchester City Council and all Manchester MPs
 - All Neighbourhood Strategic Leads
 - Gamcare and Beacon Counselling Trust
 - All gambling premises in Manchester
 - Gambling Trade Associations
 - Licensing solicitors involved in gambling licences in Manchester
 - Cityco