

<b>MEETING:</b>	Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 29 June 2016
<b>TIME:</b>	2.30 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors C. Wraith MBE (Chair), Frost, W. Johnson, Markham, Saunders, Sheard, Sixsmith MBE and Tattersall

### 1 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

### 2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Further to Minute No 5 'Terms of Reference of the General and Statutory Licensing Regulatory Boards – Update' reference was made to the role of Members with regard to safeguarding and the provision of training on safeguarding responsibilities particularly in the light of the recent corporate inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and the publication of the Casey Report.

It was noted that:

- a presentation had been made to all Members on these responsibilities and training was ongoing for Members
- All the necessary steps had been taken to ensure that members were aware of their responsibilities and knew where to signpost concerns
- Sheffield Futures was providing training for all existing drivers
- A presentation had been made at the Shaw Lane Cricket Ground and at Netherwood school which had been well received
- The Organisation Member Development Officer was looking at the possibility of providing Member Training via the online training programme. It was hoped that this would become a mandatory requirement for Members
- The Service had worked hard to ensure that both Members and drivers were fully aware of their respective safeguarding responsibilities and it was pleasing to note that more than 700 drivers had undertaken the mandatory training. Any driver who had failed to undertake such training would be referred to a Panel of the General Licensing Regulatory Board where the suspension or revocation of that licence would be considered

### 3 Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy

The Service Director Culture, Housing and Regulation submitted a report detailing changes to the framework governing the licensing of gambling which was referred to this Board by Cabinet at its meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 and seeking approval to recommend the Council to adopt the new Statement of Licensing Policy.

The report outlined the background to the review of this policy, indicated that it had been amended to take account of additional guidance and regulations since the policy was last adopted by the Council and gave details of the consultation process that had been undertaken.

In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the following:

- The requirements of the risk assessments and premises specific mitigations which were now required in order to reduce the risk of gambling related harm
- The definition of 'Vulnerable People' referred to in the Licensing Objectives and the ways in which such persons could be protected in relation to 'gambling beyond their means'
- Whilst the Gambling Policy was generally welcomed, concern was expressed at the gambling activities that were not covered within this policy and which, nevertheless, could lead to gambling problems. Particular reference in this respect was made to online gambling and 'one armed' bandits and the increasing amount of television advertising which it was felt encouraged potentially irresponsible gambling and particularly in respect of young people. The increasing number of cases of debt related problems had been identified by both Members, the CAB and Credit Unions some of which was because of gambling and arising out of the debate there was a discussion of the ways in which these concerns could be raised with Government. It was noted that Councillors and MP's were identified as 'Interested Parties' who could make representations about licence applications or licence renewal applications
- Reference was made to the good working arrangement the Licensing Service had with the Gambling Commission
- If any Members had concerns about premises acting illegally or irresponsibly, and particularly where young people or children were involved, these should be forwarded to the Licensing Service for investigation
- It was noted that unless there were objections made to a new gambling premise licence application, the licence would be granted in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005
- Arising out of the discussion, reference was made to Section 181 of the Gambling Act which related to Betting Machines in 'betting premises' and 'casinos' which had been in force for a number of years

**RESOLVED** - that the report be received and the Service Director Culture, Housing and Regulation explore options as to how concerns in relation to un-regulated gambling activities and the increasing incidence of debt can be raised with the Government.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that, insofar as the Board is concerned, the Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 be approved and referred to Council for adoption.

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Chair