

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Donoghue (The Mayor), Ali, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dulston, Haszeldine, Kane, Lawley, Lee, Mahmud, K Nicholson and Ray.

APOLOGIES – Councillor Robinson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Snedker.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Jim Langley (Principal Lawyer - Litigation) and Paul Dalton (Democratic and Elections Officer).

LG1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25

RESOLVED – That Councillor Kane be appointed Chair of the General Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

LG2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25

RESOLVED – That Councillor Ray be appointed Vice Chair of the General Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

LG3 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C106/FEB/24

RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this General Licensing Committee be held at 9.30 a.m.

LG4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

LG5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2024

Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Committee held on 27th February 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Licensing committee held on 27th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

LG6 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2024, 28 FEBRUARY 2024 AND 15 MAY 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Sub-Committee held on 27 February 2024, 28 February 2024 and 15 May 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the General Licensing Sub-Committee held on 27 February 2024, 28 February 2024 and 15 May 2024, be approved as correct records.

LG7 GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY REVIEW

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) which invited Members to approve a draft Statement of Licensing Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 (Gambling Policy) for release for consultation.

The submitted report stated that the Gambling Act 2005 required licensing authorities to publish a Statement of Principles that they proposed to apply in exercising their functions under the Act every three years. It was highlighted that Darlington's current Statement of Licensing Principles was published in January 2022, and therefore a new policy was due to be published in January 2025.

The submitted report outlined the differences between the Gambling Commission and Local Authorities, and advised that the Gambling Commission provided guidance to Local Authorities.

The submitted report stated that in April 2023, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) published a gambling white paper, which set out the Government's plans for modernising the regulation of the gambling sector, which included a number of key proposals specifically relating to the land-based gambling sector. The public consultation undertaken by the DCMS was highlighted, however it was stated that in April 2024, the Gambling Commission issued a statement that advised that it would be very unlikely that they would be in a position to amend their own 'Guidance to Licensing Authorities' document in sufficient time to allow Local Authorities to incorporate the proposed changes within their own Statements, and further advised that Statements be refreshed in line with the Act so as to be enforceable from January 2025.

RESOLVED – That the draft Licensing Principles for the Gambling Act document be approved for public consultation.