

## **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on 15 October 2015 at 10.00 am

### **Present**

#### **Councillors**

D R Coren (Chairman)  
Mrs E M Andrews, K Busch, R J Chesterton,  
Mrs F J Colthorpe, Mrs G Doe, J M Downes,  
C J Eginton, P H D Hare-Scott, T G Hughes,  
Mrs B M Hull and J L Smith

### **Apologies**

#### **Councillors**

N V Davey, D J Knowles and L D Taylor

### **Present**

#### **Officers**

Simon Johnson (Legal Services Manager),  
Thomas Keating (Lead Licensing Officer),  
Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer),  
Simon Newcombe (Public Health and  
Professional Services Manager) and  
Jacqueline Taylor (Licensing Officer)

## **7 Apologies and substitute Members**

Apologies were received from Councillors N V Davey, D J Knowles and L D Taylor.

## **8 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

## **9 Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 3 September 2015 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

## **10 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

## **11 Third Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles**

The Committee had before it a report \* from the Head of Human Resources and Development. Mid Devon District Council is required to set out and formally adopt a Statement of Principles advising how it would carry out its duties under the Gambling Act 2005. That statement had to be reviewed every three years and this was its third review.

The Lead Licensing Officer explained that the licensing authority had consulted with the Police, representatives of gambling businesses and representatives of people who, in the opinion of the authority, are likely to be affected by the exercise of the function. Two responses had been received, one from solicitors acting on behalf of the Association of British Bookmakers (ABB) and one from Coral Racing Ltd. The comment from Coral Racing Ltd had been a generic one regarding local risk assessments generally, however, the comments made by ABB had led to some tweaks being made to aid the flow of the document.

The most significant amendment to the Statement of Principles had related to the Gambling Commission introducing new provisions in its social responsibility code within the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice, requiring operators to produce a local risk assessment which would assist local authorities when considering applications. An example was provided such as premises wanting a gambling licence but the premises also being situated near to a school. The applicant in this case would need to show what plans were in place to safeguard children as well as what facilities were there to help those with gambling addictions.

Discussion took place regarding:

- If an issue was raised or a problem reported regarding particular premises then an officer from the licensing authority would visit the premises to check the risk assessment.
- The licensing authority was a consultee for relevant planning applications.
- The often close proximity of gambling premises within localities and that planning permission would be required for a change of use from retail premises to a betting shop.

**RECOMMENDED** to Council that the revised Statement of Principles be adopted.

(Proposed by Cllr C J Eginton and seconded by Cllr T G Hughes)

Note: \* Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed minutes.

(The meeting ended at 10.15 am)

**CHAIRMAN**