

REPORT OF DIRECTOR CITY DEVELOPMENT

GAMBLING ACT 2005

APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 In its role as Licensing Authority for the purpose of the Gambling Act the City Council must approve and publish its first Statement of Gambling Policy. Before adopting the policy however the City Council may resolve to adopt a resolution that will be reproduced in that Policy to the effect that it will not issue any premises licences for the new type of casino recently introduced by the regime. The matter will be reported to Council at its December meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is RECOMMENDED that:

- a) The Committee note the potential for Council to adopt a resolution under s166 of the Gambling Act not to issue a licence for the new type of casinos recently introduced by the regime; and
- b) Note the attached Statement of Gambling Policy.

3.0 BACKGROUND/PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Council's first duty as a licensing authority is to approve and publish its Statement of Gambling Policy. The Statement has been circulated separately to all Members (ATTACHED TO THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS REPORT) and is referred to as appendix 1.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Statement is to inform on the principles that will be taken into account by the Authority when it determines applications for premises licences and permits for gaming machines. The Statement promotes the three licensing objectives within the framework of approved Guidance and Codes of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission and regulations made under the Act.
- 3.3 In consulting on the Statement, the authority received 13 responses from various organisations and from representatives of the local community. The comments made range over all parts of the policy and its appendices, and a summary of the issues and the considered response by officers and consequent actions, has been included as an appendix to the policy. With the exception of three comments about typographical amendments and ordering the comments have resulted in no changes to the policy that was submitted for consultation. These comments and the response from officers is attached at appendix 2.
- 3.4 During the consultation process it was indicated in the policy that the City Council had the opportunity to adopt a resolution that it would not issue a premises licence for the new type of casino recently introduced by the regime. Nottingham currently has 3 licensed casinos; the Gambling Commission have issued operator licences for a further 3 casinos and there is planning permission for 1 further casino. An additional application for an operator

licence is being considered by the Commission that may yet result in a casino licence being issued, albeit the Authority has recently refused planning permission for casino use at those premises. Should Council determine to pass a “no casino” resolution it will not apply to these premises.

- 3.5 Once approved, the statement will be advertised and then published as required on the Council’s Internet web site. Hard copies will be available from the Licensing Service but due to the size of the policy and cost the document will only be available in English.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of advertising and publishing the Statement will be contained within the current budget.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.0 STRATEGIC AIMS

Maximising leisure and culture - supporting cultural diversity and providing leisure and community facilities;

9.0 BEST VALUE

- 9.1 The regime is designed by Government to operate on a self-financing basis. The fee bands for licences and permits are yet to be announced; the Authority will have discretion to set fees within the bands specified.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

11.0 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 11.1 None

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Appendix 1

Statement of Gambling Policy

Appendix 2

Results of the Consultation to the Statement of Gambling Policy