



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
LICENSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2021 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Singh Johal (Chair)

Councillor Fonseca

Councillor Westley

Councillor Gee

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64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Byrne, Govind, Pickering and Shelton.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

71. GAMBLING POLICY 2022-2025

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report to the Licensing and Public Safety Committee. It was noted the Council was required to publish its statement of Gambling Policy at least four weeks before it took effect, with the current statement of gambling policy due to expire on 31 January 2022.

Members were recommended to make any comments on the proposed policy and the consultation responses prior to the proposed policy being reported to Full Council on 25 November for approval.

The Chief Licensing Officer presented the report. It was noted that consultation has taken place with responsible authorities and existing gambling licence holders. Members were informed that the Gambling Act 2005 had come into effect in 2007. In looking at the guidance from the Gambling Commission there were no key issues of significance in the Council's Gambling Policy that required changing.

Members of the Committee were informed that, as had been discussed at the

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Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission meeting, Local Authorities might consider having a “no casino” policy. It was noted that Leicester had licences for up to three casinos in the city, of which two were currently in use. After discussion, Members did not support the Authority having a ‘No Casino’ policy and proposed no changes to the draft Gambling Policy.

Members further discussed the suitability and unsuitability of locations of gambling establishments. Members concluded that they did not believe that the draft Gambling Policy should be changed with regards to the sensitivity of locations of gambling premises and recognised that each case would be discussed on its own merits.

The Chair thanked the officer for the report.

AGREED:

That the Licensing and Public Safety Committee:

1. Did not support the ‘No Casino’ policy and proposed no changes to the draft Gambling Policy;
2. Did not feel it necessary to amend draft Gambling Policy with regards to the sensitivity of the location of gambling establishments;
3. Proposed no other changes to the draft Gambling Policy and referred the report to Full Council on 25 November 2021 for approval.