
REPORT OF LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2006

Chairman: * Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagne

Councillors: * Robert Benson * Ashok Kulkarni
 * Don Billson * Mrs Vina Mithani
 * Mrinal Choudhury * John Nickolay
 G Chowdhury * Phillip O'Dell
 * Mano Dharmarajah * Raj Ray
 * Thaya Idaikkadar * Tom Weiss
 * Nizam Ismail * Jeremy Zeid

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS
RECOMMENDATION I - Gambling Policy

The Gambling Act 2005 created a new statutory duty for local authorities to consider all gaming permits and licence applications.

With the Gambling Act coming into force, the Authority was required to prepare a statement as to how they intended to exercise their functions under the Act. It was noted that Harrow's policy had been drafted using the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) guidance. Harrow Council's Statement of Principles – The Gambling Act 2005 covered the provisions of the legislation in detail, and the way in which Harrow was to administer this. The Statement also included a "no casino" policy within Harrow. The draft consultation document had been sent out to the Police, Gambling Commission, all premises which carry out gambling/and or betting activities, and Gamcare amongst others for consultation. The draft policy had also been published on the internet and an article had appeared in the local newspapers.

The Committee received a report of the Head of Community Safety Services, which reported the findings of the consultation on the draft Gambling Policy, the response to which had been very low, and asked Members to make any final comments prior to referring the policy to Council for final approval.

An officer reminded the Committee that the Authority was proposing a "no casino" resolution, and further, only agreeing to the automatic right to have up to two Amusement With Prizes (AWPs). Further machines would have to be applied for.

Members considered the Draft Policy which had been circulated and noted a few minor amendments such as typographical errors and a revision to item 4 entitled "Casinos" which would be made. Officers emphasised that the complete revised version, Version 5 (the final version) would be referred to Council. It was therefore

Resolved to RECOMMEND: To Council

That the Draft Gambling Policy, as now amended, be approved (see Appendix 1 - Version 5).

(See also Minute 33).