

Minutes of the meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY
13 MARCH 2019 at 6:30 pm

Present: Councillor Morris (Chair)
Councillors Alexander, Akter, Buckley, Carr, Darling, Exon,
McDonald, Miles, Minns, Patey-Smith and Wallis

Officers: M Bracey (Chief Executive), L Gardner (Principal Solicitor – Place),
N Allen (Head of Regulatory Services), J Agar (Taxi Licensing
Manager), K Evans (Senior Enforcement Officer), E Fisher (Senior
Licensing Practitioner), M Smith (Strategic Finance Business
Partner) and T Milner (Committee Manager).

Apologies: Councillors Geaney and Legg

Also Present: 3 members of the public

LC16 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on
12 December 2018 and the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing
Sub-Committees held on 14 December 2018, be approved and
signed by the Chair as correct records.

LC17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

LC18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

That the next meeting of the Licensing Committee be provisionally
held on Wednesday 2 July 2019 at 6.30 pm.

**LC19 LATE ITEM - CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE CASINO
2018/19**

The Committee heard from the Chair that although a brief update
had been provided to Cabinet on 4 December 2018 in respect of the
financial contribution made by the Casino to the Council a more
informative report had previously been requested by the Licensing
Committee, which had not been provided. Although the Chair and
Councillor Miles expressed their dissatisfaction at the late
presentation of the report, the Committee agreed that the Late Item
should be accepted in the current calendar year of meetings.

The Committee heard from the Strategic Finance Business Partner
that the report provided a breakdown of funds received, as well as
the annual licence fee payments of £10k received by the Council

since 2012/13. It was reported that although there was no specific breakdown of the annual licence fee, the Casino had been subject to a compliance visit by Licensing Officers and that Regulatory Services had participated in Aspers' 'Community Action for Responsible Gaming' initiative.

The Chair expressed her concern about the contract with MIND BLMK, which was due to expire on 31 March 2019. Adult Social Care, which oversaw the contract, was concerned about how vulnerable gamblers might be supported in the future now a decision had been made by the Council to no longer support this. It was reported that there may have been a misunderstanding within the Council about how the funding stream for vulnerable gamblers could be spent and whether any associated ring-fencing arrangements were in place.

To help address these issues, Adult Social Care, together with the Licensing Committee, was pushing for changes, in the allocation of funds and the Licensing chair had met recently with Aspers Casino. Aspers had expressed their displeasure about the way the financial contribution made to the Council which formed part of the Aspers Licensing agreement, was in their view, being incorrectly allocated by the Council.

Councillors Carr and McDonald both indicated that the issues would have an impact on other parts of the Council, not just the Licensing Committee, stressing that the issues should be looked at urgently, with the Committee being updated on any outcomes in due course.

RESOLVED –

That the report, oral update and comments from Committee members be noted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.41 PM