

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE 2009/10

Chair: Councillor Tallack

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the Annual Report of the Licensing Committee is to advise the Council of the performance of the Committee during 2009/10.
- 1.2 The current membership is composed of 15 Members in the ratio of 6 Liberal Democrats, 6 Conservative and 3 Labour to reflect the political composition of the Council, as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 1.3 The present Committee is comprised of the following Members: Councillors Tallack (Chair), Butler-Ellis (Vice-Chair), Irons (Vice-Chair), Barry, Box, Bristow, Burke, U Clarke, Drewett, Exon, Hoyle, Jury, Latham, Miles and Tamagnini-Barbosa.

2. Review of Meetings:

- 2.1 The Committee convenes 12 times a year to transact business.
- 2.2 In total, 18 Licensing Sub-Committee hearings have been held up to end of February 2010, with at least another 2 planned for March and April 2010.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 11 November 2009 the Committee approved a draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy (2010-2013) as required by the Gambling Act 2005 which included a new section to deal with the large casino premises licence process. This will provide valuable information to potential applicants and assist them in formulating their bids following the global invitation to apply for the sole licence that is available. The policy was finally approved at Council on the 10 December 2009. It is expected that the licence will be granted by the Licensing Sub-Committee in the next Council year.
- 2.4 The Licensing Committee at its meeting on the 17 February 2010 agreed a site visit protocol for members in respect of applications and reviews to the Committee and its Sub Committee. The site visit protocol was proposed to ensure that members conduct is proper at a site visit and to ensure that decisions based on information gained from site visit are not open to challenges on legal grounds. The same site visit procedure has also been agreed by the Regulatory Committee.