

Minutes of the meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY
7 DECEMBER 2016 at 6:30 pm

Present: Councillor Morris (Chair)
Councillors Buckley, Exon, Geaney, Green, McDonald, Petchey,
C Williams and P Williams.

Officers: A Moss (Interim Head of Transport), J Agar (Regulatory Unit Senior Practitioner), S Teesdale (Licensing Team Leader), S Bailey (Parking Strategy & Implementation Manager), E Fisher (Senior Practitioner), D Novell (Senior Enforcement Officer), A Ward (Senior Practitioner), L Gardner (Case Manager Litigation), L Hodgkinson (Regulatory Unit Practitioner), M Smith (Housing Finance Manager) and T Milner (Committee Manager).

Also Present: 22 Members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors Alexander, Legg, Patey-Smith and Webb.

LC08 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed Councillors, officers and the public to the meeting.

LC09 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

LC10 ANNUAL UPDATE – USE OF INCOME FROM THE CASINO

The Committee considered a report from the Housing Finance Manager in respect of an Annual Update – Use of Income from the Casino, which set out the details of how the income had been allocated.

The Committee heard that the Borough of Milton Keynes had a number of betting shops and several gambling establishments including the Casino.

The Committee expressed some concern in respect of the inspection tests undertaken with the Casino and other gambling establishments based in Milton Keynes, including the issue of how under-age sales were being looked into. The Senior Enforcement Officer provided reassurance to the Committee that a robust Test process and criteria was in place in addition to a procedure to aid with dealings with any breaches of the law.

It was reported that the Licensing Team was not complacent in its work, and if it was deemed necessary to address or enhance the testing process and procedures in place, that appropriate action would be undertaken by the Council.

The Senior Enforcement Officer also informed the Committee that although the operation of cameras and recording equipment were checked as part of the process/checks that were in place, the Licensing Team could look into the issues in more detail. The Licensing Team Leader provided further reassurance that he would look at providing the Committee with a summary of tests of camera/recording equipment operations carried out.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Housing Finance Manager for the input and detailed report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

LC11

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – SITE INSPECTIONS

The Committee received a draft Procedure for the Licensing Sub-Committee Site Inspections from the Senior Practitioner.

The Chair informed the Committee that the draft Procedure was an interim measure for the short term, that would assist the Licensing Sub-Committee attend Site Inspections, as part of the Hearings process. Any lessons learnt would aid the development of and would be incorporated within a report being submitted to the Committee for consideration during 2017.

The Committee heard that due to many of Milton Keynes Councillors holding full-time jobs, consideration should be given to the timing of Site Inspections. The Chair also commented that an invitation could only be extended to invite Parish, Town or Ward Councillors to attend a Site Inspection, if a request for representation had been submitted to the Licensing Sub-Committee during the consultation period.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agreed in principle to the Site Inspections draft procedure, and the Senior Practitioner be requested to submit a final draft procedure to a future meeting for consideration.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6:40 PM