
Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 17th November 2015

Subject: **Gambling Act 2005 – Licensing of the Large Casino
Schedule 9 Agreement - Annual Update**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): City & Holbeck		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Appendix A is exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) as it includes information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>		

Summary of main issues

1. In May 2013 the council granted a provisional statement to Global Gaming Ventures Limited (GGV) to operate a large casino at Eastgate, now known as Victoria Gate, Leeds 1. In March 2015 the provisional statement was superseded in the grant of the full premises licence.
2. The casino licence is subject to a Schedule 9 agreement which is a legal agreement made between the council and the licence holder and ensures that the benefits evaluated as part on the large casino application process are secured.
- 3 The Schedule requires GGV provide reports on its progress in delivering the benefits.

Recommendations

- 4 That Licensing Committee note the contents of the appendices to this report, in addition to the presentation of Global Gaming Ventures Limited.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 This report is for GGV to present Members with their report on the delivery of the benefits to-date, and also to provide Members with details of the build and fit-out of the casino.

2.0 Background information

2.1 The Gambling Act 2005 allowed 16 casinos across England, Scotland and Wales – 8 large and 8 small casinos. A large casino allows for up to 150 gaming machines and a small casino 80 gaming machines. .

2.2 Following the approval of Executive Board in March 2006, the Director of Development submitted a bid to HM Government's Casino Advisory Panel for a large casino in Leeds.

2.3 Leeds City Council was successful in their bid for a large casino, together with Great Yarmouth, Middlesbrough, Kingston Upon Hull, Milton Keynes, Newham, Solihull and Southampton.

2.4 In May 2013 the Licensing Committee granted a provisional statement for a large casino licence to GGV Ltd., for the site at Eastgate, Leeds 1, now known as Victoria Gate.

2.5 The provisional statement was granted following a competition exercise and utilising approved evaluation methodology and scoring criteria, which sought to maximise the financial, social and economic benefits for the city.

2.6 On being granted the licence, GGV Ltd committed to undertaking a wide range of benefits, including commitments to employment, training, mitigating problem gambling, and commitment to environmental principles to the physical development of the casino. Such benefits are secured by a Schedule 9 Agreement.

2.7 Included within the Schedule 9 Agreement was commitment to contribute to a Social Inclusion Fund (benefits 2 & 3) with initial funding being received in 2013 and subsequent payments expected once the casino is opened. Following on from an update given to Licensing Committee in February, three projects made formal application to the fund and were successful in receiving funding. These were for:

- An online face to face outreach service.
- Franchising of the successful Money Buddies project.
- A ready for work programme specifically targeting those aged 25+ with severe barriers to work.

2.8 The Social Inclusion Fund is managed by the council's Financial Inclusion Team.

2.9 GGV Ltd went on to secure the full casino premises licence in March 2015.

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 The Schedule 9 Agreement is strengthened by a condition on the casino premises licence which ensures that the benefits evaluated as part of the large casino Stage 2 application process are secured.
- 3.2 The Schedule 9 Agreement consists of a Schedule 1 document which sets out 38 benefits that the casino will deliver.
- 3.3 A casino management group has been established within the council to monitor the delivery of those benefits.
- 3.4 GGV Ltd have agreed to fund work to independently monitor the performance of the licence and its compliance with the agreed benefits, and the operation of a robust system of monitoring, management and mitigation to ensure that the social and health risks are closely monitored to minimise any potentially harmful effects of the new casino.
- 3.5 The first report of this nature is attached at appendix A for Members information. However Members will be aware that as the casino is still in the stages of development, a number of benefits will have not yet been achieved.
- 3.6 Representatives from GGV are present at today's meeting to present the contents of appendix A and furthermore to provide Members with a visual presentation of the casino final build.
- 3.7 It should be noted that the contents of appendix A and the presentation to be provided before the Licensing Committee are potentially exempt information under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) as these include information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The report of the Director of Development was considered before Executive Board in March 2006.
- 4.1.2 The application for a provisional statement (premises licence) at Stage 1 and subsequent application for a full licence were subject to the prescribed public notice procedures.
- 4.1.3 The Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy is reviewed on a three yearly basis, last reviewed and approved in December 2012, and the 2016-2018 policy review is presently underway.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy is subject to an EDCI Assessment, and a screening form has been completed.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The licensing regime contributes to the following Best Council Plan 2013-17 outcomes:

- Improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in poverty
- Make it easier for people to do business with us

4.3.2 The licensing regime contributes to our best council objective:

- Ensuring high quality public services – improving quality, efficiency and involving people in shaping their city.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Employment and financial benefits have been secured through the Schedule 9 agreement. These will be monitored by casino management group.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications for this report.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no issues relating to risk management.

5 Conclusions

5.1 GGV Ltd holds the large casino premises licence to operate from Victoria Gate, Eastgate, Leeds 1. The development works to Victoria Gate are underway and the casino is set to open in 2016.

5.2 The schedule Agreement is strengthened by a condition on the casino premises licence which ensures that the benefits evaluated as part of the large casino Stage 2 application process are secured.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Licensing Committee note the contents of this report and presentation, and for GGV Ltd to provide on an annual basis, or lesser period as required, a report on its progress in delivering the benefits set out in the Schedule 9.

7 Background documents¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website,

7.1 There are no unpublished background documents that relate to this matter.

unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.