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**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate and Governance)**

***Licensing Committee***

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Subject: Large Casino Update**

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

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**Executive Summary**

The Gambling Act 2005 provided Leeds City Council with the opportunity to grant a Large Casino Premises Licence under a two stage process which will determine a licence on the greatest benefit to the City.

Officers are now starting the preliminary stages for this competition and are reporting to Licensing Committee on the next steps in the process.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Licensing Committee of the next steps in the Large Casino process and their delegated responsibilities during this process.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 The Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) changed the legislation governing the licensing of casinos significantly. Under the Act seventeen new casino licences were to be granted, each of which are to be significantly larger than existing casinos. The licences are broken down as follows: one regional casino, eight large casinos, and eight small casinos. The DCMS formed a special Casino Advisory Panel (CAP) to recommend where the new casinos should be located.
- 2.2 In April 2008 Parliament dropped the regional casino and approved the eight small and eight large casinos in line with the CAPs original recommendations. Leeds was awarded a large casino licence.
- 2.3 The council are now in a position to proceed with the project. The necessary approvals from Executive Board were received on the 10 March 2010.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

### **3.1 Next Steps**

- 3.1.1 Work can now begin on producing the content for the policy and the application pack. As previously advised the policy will follow the Budgetary and Policy Framework rules, progressing through to full Council. The application pack, which will include the evaluation matrix, will be progressed through Licensing Committee.
- 3.1.2 As both the policy and the application pack will contain the same basic information, both pieces of work will be developed together. These documents will provide the information required by applicants to enable them to provide a second stage application bid which will be able to be evaluated alongside the other bids received at that stage.

### **3.2 Project Plan**

- 3.2.1 The project plan from this point will include the following stages:
- 3.2.2 Project Board – The Development Department will form a project board to approve each stage in the process and to control spending in line with a budget already agreed with Executive Board.
- 3.2.3 Advisory Panel – The project board will determine the expertise required to produce a robust policy and application pack and source such expertise, first from internal sources and, if none available, from external sources. This expertise will form the Advisory Panel which will advise on the content of the documentation and then provide an evaluation report on each of the second stage bids to enable the Licensing Committee to make a fair and transparent decision.
- 3.2.4 Policy and Application Pack – Entertainment Licensing, with input from the Advisory Panel, will produce a first draft of each document for consultation with the responsible authorities and other key stakeholders. The second draft of the application pack will be brought to Licensing Committee for approval before public consultation.

The second draft of the policy will be taken through the Budgetary and Policy Framework process, to be approved as the Public Consultation draft by full Council. The policy will also be taken to Scrutiny Board for their comments.

3.2.4 Public Consultation – Once the public consultation documents are ready, officers will arrange a 12 week consultation. This will be advertised in libraries, one stop shops and leisure centres by way of a poster. A webpage will be created and a web form will be available for people to make comments online.

3.2.5 Timescales – the final timescale for this process has not been set yet and will be determined by the procurement process for the Advisory Panel. However the current timescales being worked to are as follows:

April 10	Project Board
July 10	Advisory Panel in place
Sep – Nov 10	Public Consultation
Feb 11	Advertise competition
May – Jul 11	Stage 1 process
Aug – Oct 11	Stage 2 process
Dec 11	Issue licence

3.2.6 Training – Full training for members will be given to provide Licensing Committee with background knowledge of the casino industry as well as specialist knowledge they will need to interpret the evaluation report provided by the Advisory Panel, and the Stage 2 bids received from the applicants.

#### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

4.1 The principles will need to be included in the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy which will have to follow the normal approval process following the Budgetary and Policy Framework

#### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 The contents of the application pack and the grant of the licence are Part 8 functions of the Act and are expressly a matter for the council's Licensing Committee, although the principles that the committee will use to inform its decision on greatest benefit will be contained within the council's statement of licensing policy subject to full Council approval.

#### **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The project is now proceeding, with the project board being formed and an Advisory Panel appointed in the near future.

#### **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 That Licensing Committee note the contents of this report.