

## Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

### Report to Licensing Committee

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Subject:** Large Casino

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: 10.4(3) Appendix number: 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

1. The Gambling Act 2005 provided Leeds City Council with the opportunity to grant a large casino premises licence under a two stage process. This process will determine which of the competing applications would, in the authority's opinion, be likely if granted to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area.
2. Licensing Committee met on the 13<sup>th</sup> May to determine which of the remaining two applicants met the test and to make a provisional decision and instructed officers to complete a legal agreement to secure the benefits offered under schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005. This report presents the finalised and signed schedule 9 agreement (Appendix 1).

### Recommendations

3. That Licensing Committee considers the finalised and signed legal agreement with the preferred applicants which secures the benefits offered under schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005.
4. That Licensing Committee determines which of the competing applications would, in the authority's opinion, be likely if granted to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area, grants the provisional statement to that applicant and rejects the other.

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report presents presents the finalised and signed schedule 9 agreement as instructed by Licensing Committee at the end of the meeting which commenced on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 The Gambling Act 2005 changed the legislation governing the licensing of casinos significantly. The Act and associated regulations and a Code of Practice prescribe a two stage process under which applications for the licence can be submitted and considered. The Council must grant the application which would, in the authority's opinion, be likely if granted to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area.

## **3.0 Main issues**

- 3.1 The two stage application process commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and culminated on the 13<sup>th</sup> May with two remaining applicants. On the 13<sup>th</sup> May Licensing Committee met to determine which of the two applicants would, in the authority's opinion, be likely if granted to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area.
- 3.2 Licensing Committee determined which of the two applicants would be the preferred applicant, and instructed officers to complete a legal agreement to secure the benefits offered under schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005. This report presents the finalised and signed schedule 9 agreement which is attached at Appendix 1.

## **4 Conclusions**

- 4.1 The large casino application process is in its final stages. The two remaining applicants have submitted their best and final applications detailing how their scheme will benefit Leeds which have been evaluated by an advisory panel. As instructed officers have completed the schedule 9 agreement and present it for Licensing Committee to make the final decision. It is for Licensing Committee to determine which of the two applicants would, in the authority's opinion, be likely if granted to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area and to award the provisional statement to that applicant.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That Licensing Committee considers the finalised and signed legal agreement with the preferred applicant which secures the benefits offered under schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005.
- 5.2 That Licensing Committee determines which of the competing applications would, in the authority's opinion, be likely if granted to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area, grants the provisional statement to that applicant and rejects the other.

Background documents<sup>1</sup>

None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.