

## Licensing Committee

Monday, 13th May, 2013

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Hyde in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, B Gettings,  
T Hanley, M Harland, A Khan, C Townsley  
and G Wilkinson

### 101 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

**RESOLVED** – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of that part of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report referred to in minutes 104, 105 and 106 both in terms of the Licensing Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (3), and on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose the contents as the information therein pertains to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

### 102 Late Items

No late items of business were added to the agenda

### 103 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest

### 104 Large Casino

The Head of Licensing and Registration submitted a report presenting two competing applications for the grant of Leeds' Large Casino Licence. The applications, having passed through Stage 1 of the licensing process, now contained the best and final submissions from the applicants and had completed the evaluation process undertaken by the Licensing Committee's own Casino Advisory Panel.

Included within the report were the following documents:

- Appendix 1a Stage 1 application submitted by Global Gaming Ventures Ltd
- Appendix 1b Stage 1 application submitted by Leeds United Football Club Ltd

Due to the nature of the Stage 2 submissions and the restricted access to the documents required by the application process, Members had considered the following documents in a controlled reading room environment during the two weeks prior to the meeting:

- Appendix 2a the best and final application submitted by Global Gaming Ventures Ltd
- Appendix 2b The best and final application submitted by Leeds United Football Club Ltd

- Appendix 3a The Advisory Panel Report on Global Gaming Ventures Ltd
- Appendix 3b The Advisory Panel Report on Leeds United Football Club

All of the above documents were marked exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (3) and were made available to Members of the Committee again on the day of the meeting.

The Committee heard from the Licensing Officer in respect of the progress of the applications through the Large Casino process. The Committee then heard from Mr T Bridges, Chair of the Casino Advisory Panel in respect of the process adopted by the Panel to assess the proposed benefits to the Authority's area as set out in the final submissions.

The Committee then considered the motion to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in order to determine which of the completing applications would, in the Authority's opinion, be likely if granted, to result in the greatest benefit to the Authority's area and

**RESOLVED** – To continue the remainder of the meeting in closed session

### **105 Closed Session**

Members considered the applications having regard to the Casino application pack approved by Licensing Committee in January 2012, The Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy and the DCMS Code of Practice.

Members paid particular attention to the following key matters that they felt to be pertinent to the licensing guidance which sought to meet the clear financial, social and economic objectives established in Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005:

- The business case as made by each applicant
- The detail of the "best and final offers" as proposed in the draft written agreement prepared by the applicant under the provisions of paragraph 5(3)(b) of Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005
- The evaluation of each application undertaken by the Casino Advisory Panel

Having considered the wealth of material available to them, Members reached a preliminary view on the application most likely to result in the greatest benefit to the Authority's area; however agreed to re-convene the meeting the following day in order to further consider that view.

**RESOLVED** – To re-convene the meeting (as a closed session) on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### **106 Tuesday 14th May 2013 - Closed Session**

Further to minutes 104 and 105 above, the Committee re-convened the meeting in order to further consider the view reached by the Committee on the application for the Large Casino Licence most likely to result in the greatest benefit to Leeds.

Members revisited the best and final submissions, having regard to the evaluation undertaken by the Casino Advisory Panel, the Large Casino application pack, the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy and the DCMS Code of Practice.

Members also had regard to comments received overnight from Counsel on the preliminary view reached by the Committee.

The Committee considered the submissions in the light of the licensing guidance which sought to meet the clear financial, social and economic objectives established in Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005.

Having revisited the material available to them, Members confirmed their preliminary view on the application most likely to result in the greatest benefit to the Authority's area and

**RESOLVED –**

- a) That the contents of the applications and the evaluation of the Stage 2 application provided by the Casino Advisory Panel be noted
- b) That the Licensing Committee, having determined which of the competing applications would, in the authority's opinion, be likely to result in the greatest benefit to the authority's area; instruct officers to complete a legal agreement to secure the benefits offered under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005
- c) That officers be requested to report back to the next Committee meeting prior to a final decision to grant the Large Casino Licence