
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate and Governance)

Licensing Committee

Date: 15th February 2011

Subject: Large Casino Update

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

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 progress of the Large Casino project 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.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Current Work - As previously advised officers from Development and Entertainment Licensing are working on the statement of principles and the application pack. The Project Board has authorized the appointment of external expertise to assist in developing the methodology for assessing Stage 2 applications. This provides expertise not available within the council.
- 3.2 The public consultation draft of the policy is due to be ready for external quality assurance by Counsel at the beginning of March. Once this assurance has been received, the policy will be brought to Licensing Committee for information in April 2011.
- 3.3 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. A mail shot will be sent out to an extensive list of identified stakeholders. This will include existing licence holders, national trade associations, responsible authorities, organisations concerned with the social impact of gambling, ward members, MPs, parish councils, and faith groups to name just a few.
- 3.4 Timescales – the current timescales being worked to are as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| April to June 2011 | Public Consultation |
| November 2011 | Adoption of policy by Council |
| December 2011 | Advertise competition |
| Jan - April 12 | Stage 1 process |
| From May 12 | Stage 2 process |
- 3.5 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.