

Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 24th July 2012

Subject: Large Casino – Formulation of Advisory Panel

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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 which will determine a licence on the basis of greatest benefit to the city.
2. In order to assist with the process Licensing Committee agreed in principal to appoint an Advisory Panel to provide a detailed appraisal of each of the stage 2 applications.
3. This report presents the membership of the Advisory Panel for approval.

Recommendations

4. That Licensing Committee considers the contents of the report and approves the membership of the advisory panel.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed Advisory Panel membership for approval prior to the commencement of Stage 2 of the Large Casino Premises licence process.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 The Gambling Act 2005 changed the legislation governing the licensing of casinos significantly. Under the Act seventeen new casino licences were to be granted, each of which to be significantly larger than existing casinos. The DCMS formed the Casino Advisory Panel (CAP) to recommend where the new casinos should be located.
- 2.2 In April 2008 Parliament approved eight small and eight large casino licences in line with CAPs original recommendations. Leeds was awarded the right to issue a large casino licence.
- 2.3 Since 2008 the council has been preparing the two stage process under which it will determine which application will provide the best benefit to the city. This work has included updating the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy and producing a detailed application pack which included the methodology to be used at both stages of the process. This work was completed in January 2012.

3.0 Main issues

Stage 1 Update

- 3.1 The council commenced the application process for the large casino in January 2012 and subsequently received five stage 1 applications from the following applicants:
- London Clubs Ltd, Alea Casino, Clarence Dock - Premises Licence
 - Rushbond plc, Majestic, City Square - Provisional Statement
 - Leeds United Football Club, West Stand, Elland Road - Provisional Statement
 - Grosvenor Casinos, Quarry Hill - Provisional Statement
 - Global Gaming Ventures, Eastgate - Provisional Statement
- 3.2 One representation was received during the standard notice period and this was for the London Clubs Leeds Ltd premises licence application.
- 3.3 In June the council received a further application for a provisional statement from London Clubs Leeds Ltd at the Alea Casino site.
- 3.4 The applications from Rushbond, Leeds United, Grosvenor Casinos and Global Gaming Ventures did not receive any representations, and therefore under the terms of the Gambling Act automatically passed through stage 1 of the process without the need for determination.

- 3.5 The two London Clubs Leeds Ltd applications were considered at a hearing of the licensing sub-committee on 16th July 2012. Officers will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

Stage 2

- 3.6 Following the conclusion of stage 1 and any appeal period, the council will advise each successful applicant of the commencement of stage 2. At this stage applicants will provide information as required by the council's application pack in order to demonstrate how their application will provide the best benefit to the city.

Advisory Panel

- 3.7 At its meeting in October 2011, Members decided to use an Advisory Panel to evaluate the Stage 2 applications, undertake negotiations and provide Licensing Committee with an evaluation report before it meets to determine which application provides the greatest benefit to the city.
- 3.6 At its meeting in January 2012, Members gave final approval to the Stage 2 process, including the general roles required on the Advisory Panel.
- 3.7 Following this approval, officers consulted with relevant Directors and Chief Officers to identify suitable internal advisors and undertook external procurement for specialist advisors where in-house expertise was not available, subject to final approval by Licensing Committee.
- 3.8 The proposed Advisory Panel membership is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.9 The panel comprises senior advisors who have the relevant experience and expertise required to assess the large quantity of technical information required during the stage 2 process and to assist Licensing Committee during the meeting.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The use of the Advisory Panel was widely consulted upon during the update to the Gambling Policy and the subsequent application pack consultation. Each authority who has been given the ability to award one of the new casino licences has used or is planning to use an advisory panel to provide technical expertise to the Licensing Committee during determination.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy underwent a Equality, Diversity, Integration and Community Cohesion Impact Assessment in June 2010. In addition the large casino insert into the Gambling Policy underwent Impact Screening in October 2011.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 This report recommends the use of an advisory panel to inform and assist Licensing Committee in the determination of a large casino premises licence. In addition to considering the report provided by the Advisory Panel, Members will also consider the council's Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy which was approved in January 2012.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 The use of an Advisory Panel provides a level of assurance that the proposed development is credible and deliverable which reduces the risk of Members determining in favour of an application which does not provide the benefits expected.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The Advisory Panel includes the use of external legal advisors who will provide independent legal advice to the Advisory Panel. The council's Legal Services will provide advice to the Licensing Committee.
- 4.5.2 The information provided in the Stage 2 applications will be held confidentially as is required by the Gambling Act 2005. The information provided will be commercially sensitive and therefore only those involved in the evaluation and determination processes will have access to the stage 2 applications.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Licensing Committee could decide not to approve the membership of the Advisory Panel. This would lead to delays in the commencement of Stage 2 which, in turn, may affect the quality of the Stage 2 applications, especially as other council's are progressing in their processes at the same time. Currently Leeds City Council is the only council to be at this stage at this time with the other 15 council's having either completed the process, or are yet to commence stage 1.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Licensing Committee approved the use of an Advisory Panel at the meeting in October 2011 and this report details the proposed membership of the Panel.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Licensing Committee considers the contents of the report and approve the membership of the advisory panel.

Background Papers

Large Casino Application Pack
Equality Impact Assessment - GA2005 Policy June 2010
Large Casino Insert Statement of Licensing Policy October 2011

Proposed Advisory Panel Membership

Role	Name	Job Title
Chair	TBC	Chief Economic Development Officer, Economic Development, Leeds City Council
Economic Advisor	Tom Holvey	Economic Policy Advisor, Leeds City Council
Economic Support		Economic Intelligence Unit Leeds City Council
Employment, Training and Skills Advisor	Alice Winter	Head of Employment Leeds, Leeds City Council
Financial Advisor	Bhupinder Chana	Principal Finance Manager, Leeds City Council
Social, Equality and Health Advisor	Dianne Lyons	Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Bureau
Social, Equality and Health Support	Dr Ian Cameron (staff)	NHS Leeds
Commercial Advisor	Chris Gomersall	Head of Property Services, Leeds City Council
Commercial Support		DTZ
Legal Advisors	Vincent King	Partner, Cobbetts
	Marian Griffiths	Director, Cobbetts
Casino/Gambling advisors	D J Smith	Managing Director, New World Gaming
	Martin Watson	Associate, New World Gaming