

Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 16th October 2012

Subject: Large Casino – Amendment to Advisory Panel Membership

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 and Licensing Committee approved the Advisory Panel membership on 24th July 2012.
3. Due to a unforeseen circumstances one member of the advisory panel has had to withdraw and a replacement has been found and is presented today for approval.

Recommendations

4. That Licensing Committee considers the contents of the report and approve the amendment to the membership of the advisory panel.
5. That Licensing Committee delegates the responsibility for approval of any further changes to the membership to the Head of Licensing and Registration.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report advises of a change to the Advisory Panel membership and seeks approval for this change.
- 1.2 This report also requests that Licensing Committee delegates any future amendments to the Head of Licensing and Registration.

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.
- 2.2 Since 2008 the council has been preparing the two stage process under which it will determine which large casino 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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 At its meeting in January 2012, Members gave final approval to the Stage 2 process, including the general roles required on the Advisory Panel.
- 3.3 At its meeting in July 2012, Members gave approval for the membership of the Advisory Panel.
- 3.4 However, unforeseen circumstances have required that Dianne Lyons, Chief Executive of the Citizens Advice Bureau, who was to be the Social, Equality and Health Advisor to withdraw her services from the Advisory Panel.
- 3.5 Reverend Dr Philip Bee, the Churches Regional Officer CRC for Yorkshire and the Humber has offered to fulfil this role on the Advisory Panel and permission is sought to replace Dianne Lyons with Reverend Dr Philip Bee as soon as possible.
- 3.6 As the evaluation process is just about to start, it is important to minimise any delay, approval is sought from Members to delegate the decision on the approval of any further replacement members to the Head of Licensing and Registration.

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.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy underwent an 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 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 amended membership of the Advisory Panel. This would lead to delays in the evaluation process while a suitable replacement be sought.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Licensing Committee approved the membership of the Advisory Panel in July 2012 but one member has had to withdraw her services and a replacement has been sought.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Licensing Committee considers the contents of the report and approve the amendment to the membership of the advisory panel.
- 6.2 That Licensing Committee delegates the responsibility for approval of any further changes to the membership to the Head of Licensing and Registration.

Background Papers

None