

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

**9TH APRIL 2018 (10.30AM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: J A Hart (Chairman), J Baker (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, J R Desmond, I Hardiman, V Higgs, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, J D Smith, R J Vale and R Wilson.

**Observers:**

There were no members present as observers.

**LIC.33 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Bishop.

**LIC.34 Appointment of Substitutes**

No substitutes were appointed.

**LIC.35 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LIC.36 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.37 Consultation on the Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Revised Statement of Principles**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council which sought approval of the revised Gambling Statement of Principles 2019–22 for the purpose of consultation with relevant parties, as part of the statutory triennial review in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report and advised that each licensing authority was required before each successive three year period to prepare and publish a statement of the principles that they proposed to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during that period. He added that the Council's current Statement of Principles came into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016, therefore a new Statement of Principles was required to be prepared and published ready to take effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

The Senior Practitioner reported that there had been no significant amendments to the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 since the last Statement of Principles took effect. He added that changes had been made to the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Code of Practice (LCCP) that licensed operators had to comply with, and it had also updated its Guidance to Licensing Authorities (GLA). He added that all changes had been taken into account by Officers when preparing the revised Statement of Principles.

The Committee considered the revised document. In response to concerns raised by Members surrounding gambling-related harm, the Senior Practitioner confirmed that the final published Statement of Principles would contain a Local Area Profile which would be available for gambling operators to have regard to when carrying out their own local risk assessments. He also advised that the draft Statement contained a section recognising the links between Public Health and gambling-related harms and how the authority would like to work together in partnership with the local Public Health team to gain a better understanding and address gambling-related harms within the district.

In relation to on-line gambling, Members were advised that it was the responsibility of the Gambling Commission to regulate this activity.

The Chairman advised that the results of the consultation would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee and reminded Members to submit any responses to the consultation within the consultation period.

**Agreed: The revised Gambling Statement of Principles at Appendix 1 of the report, for the purpose of consultation with relevant parties be approved.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.50am.