

LICENSING COMMITTEE

5 JULY 2011

Present: County Councillor Bridges (Chairperson);
County Councillors Cox, Ford, Grant, Goddard,
Griffiths, Kelloway, Macdonald, Derrick Morgan and
Elgan Morgan

Apologies: County Councillors Smith

L1 : CHAIRPERSON

The Committee noted that the County Council on 19 May 2011 appointed County Councillor Bridges as Chairperson of this Committee.

L2 : DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

The Committee noted that the County Council on 19 May 2011 appointed County Councillor Cox as Deputy Chairperson of this Committee.

L3 : MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The County Council on 19 May 2011 had appointed the following Members to this Committee:

Grant, Goddard, Griffiths, Kelloway, Macdonald, Derrick Morgan, Elgan Morgan, Rowland-James, Singh and Smith

The following terms of reference were approved:

To be the Council's Licensing Committee as required by the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 and any re-enactment or modification thereof; and as a full delegate of the Council to exercise all the powers and functions related under those Acts.

L4 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

L5 : GAMING MACHINE AMENDMENTS

Members were advised that the Government had proposed amendments to the legislation governing category B3 gaming machines. Difficult trading conditions arising from the economic downturn have put the amusement and bingo industries in Britain under increasing pressure. The government has been persuaded that the situation facing these industries is sufficiently grave to justify considering whether a small increase in the maximum stake for category B3 gaming machines (machines with a maximum stake limit of £1 and a maximum prize limit of £500).

The Government issued a consultation document – “Gambling Act 2005: Category B3 Gaming Machines Consultation – Proposals for changes to maximum stake limits and premises' entitlements” requesting views during November 2010 to January 2011. The Government proposed raising the maximum stake limits and premises' entitlements for category B3 gaming machines and on a recalibration of B3 gaming machine entitlements for adult gaming centres (AGCs) and bingo clubs.

Following consideration of the consultation response the Government announced on 7 June 2011 that it intended to issue regulations to:

- Increase the maximum stake for sub-category B3 gaming machines.
- Allow bingo halls and arcades to provide a greater number of machines more of this type of machine.

Draft legislation amending the Gambling Act 2005 was laid before Parliament on 7 June 2011. The changes are expected to come into effect before Parliament goes into recess for the summer from 20 July 2011.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

L6 : LICENSING ACT ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee received a report providing summarised details of the work undertaken by the Licensing Service relating to the Licensing Act 2003 during the year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The report provided information on the various aspects of the works undertaken by the Service during the period and provided comparison with previous years.

In respect of the number of Licensing Sub Committee decisions that were subsequently taken to appeal in the Magistrates Court, Members requested that the Committee be advised of the outcome of those proceedings in future activity summary reports.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

L7 : GAMBLING ACT ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee received a report providing summarised details of the work undertaken by the Licensing Service relating to the Gambling Act 2005 during the year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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Chairperson