

Minutes

Policy Review Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Tuesday 14 March 2017
Time:	5.00pm
Present:	Councillors J Deans (Chair), M Hobson (Vice Chair), K Arthur, J Cattnach, D Hutchinson, and Mrs J Shaw-Wright.
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor Mrs M McCartney.
Officers Present:	Gilliam Marshall – Solicitor to the Council, Chris Watson – Assistant Policy Officer, and Janine Jenkinson - Democratic Services Officer.

25. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2017.

With regard to Minute 23 – Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan, it was pointed out that the last word in the penultimate bullet point ‘involve’ should be amended to read ‘involved’.

It was noted that Minute ‘19’. – Work Programme 2016/17, should be amended to Minute ‘24’.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 17 January 2017, for signature by the Chair, subject to the amendments set out above.

27. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

The Chair wished to express his thanks to Councillor R Packham for this contribution to the Policy Review Committee during his term of membership; he wished Councillor Packham well in his new role on the Audit Committee.

In relation to an item regarding Park Byelaws, the Committee was informed that the item had been due to be considered at the March meeting; however it had now been re-scheduled and would be considered at the April Committee meeting.

28. GAMBLING POLICY REFRESH

The Chair presented the report and explained that it was a statutory requirement to review the Gambling Policy every three years. It was explained that the existing policy had now been reviewed and officers had brought the draft Policy in-line with the latest regulatory guidance. The Committee was informed that a consultation process had been carried out from 20 January 2017 to 14 March 2017. The final version of the Policy would be presented to the Executive on 6 April 2017 and then to Full Council on 25 April 2017, subject to approval, the Policy would then come into force.

The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the following:

- The introduction of the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (as set out in section 2.2 of the report).
- The introduction of the Regulation of Small Society Lotteries, which had been noted as best practice (set out in section 2.3 of the report).
- The council's stance on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (set out in section 21.2 of the report).

The Committee considered the draft Gambling Policy and discussed the following:

- With regard to point 10.3 of the Policy, it was pointed out that there was some duplication in the following sentence 'In practice that means not only preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling, but also preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling'. The Assistant Policy Officer advised the Committee that the sentence should be amended to read 'In practice that means not only preventing them from talking part in gambling, but also preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling'.

- It was noted that under points 21.3 and 22.2 of the Policy there was reference to 'self-barring schemes' which should be amended to read 'self-barring schemes'. In response to a query, the Solicitor to the Council explained that a self-barring scheme involved a person asking a gambling operator to refuse service in the venues where they had self-excluded themselves from.
- In relation to breaches of the Gambling Policy and enforcement, the Committee was advised that compliance and enforcement was dealt with in conjunction with the Gambling Commission, under the Gambling Act 2005.
- With regard to point 14.4 of the Policy – Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, councillors asked how successfully this could be regulated and monitored. The Solicitor to the Council explained that gambling premises were required to take appropriate measures to operate in-line with the licensing objectives and Codes of Practice. The Solicitor to the Council explained that although it was not possible to comprehensively monitor gambling establishments and users, numerous methods were employed by the industry to ensure gambling was undertaken in-line with the relevant Codes of Practice.
- In response to a query, the Solicitor to the Council explained that the National Lottery was regulated by the National Lottery Act, which was separate from the Gambling Act 2005.
- With regards to point 22 of the Policy 'Tracks', councillors requested that an explanatory note be included in the Policy that set out the types of tracks this section of the Policy related to.

RESOLVED:

To ask the Assistant Policy Officer to incorporate the comments and amendments set out above, into the final version of the Policy presented to the Executive and Full Council.

29. WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Committee noted the Work Programme 2016/17.

RESOLVED:

To note the Work Programme 2016/17.

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.