

**EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2009****LICENSING COMMITTEE (LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)****3.30PM 26 NOVEMBER 2009****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Cobb (Chairman), Lepper (Deputy Chairman), Allen, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes, Hyde, Kitcat, Older, Phillips, Pidgeon, Simson, C Theobald, Watkins and West.

Apologies: Councillor Marsh

18. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVISED POLICY

- 18.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environment regarding the Gambling Act 2005 – revised policy (for a copy see minute book).

The Licensing Manager presented the report and stated that the policy needed to be reviewed every three years according to procedures set out in the Gambling Act 2005, which included details of whom should be consulted. In addition to these statutory consultees, responses were also received from a charity, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Sussex Police. The main proposals in the report were to continue with the existing policy and the Licensing Manager added that the reviewed policy would need to be referred on to Full Council for adoption.

Councillor Wrighton expressed concern that details of regional casinos had been taken out of the reviewed policy and asked what impact this would have. The Licensing Manager stated that when regional, large and small casino sitings were originally proposed by Government, Brighton & Hove City Council had considered accepting a large casino. The city had not be chosen to take this forward however, so there was no longer any need to include this provision in the policy.

Councillor Wrighton remained concerned that Brighton & Hove might be chosen as a site at a future date and the Licensing Manager stated that there was no longer a risk to the city as it had not been chosen as part of the original plans.

Councillor West recognised that casino gambling in the city was an issue that needed to be controlled, but believed that as this was done in a more social atmosphere it was easier to control any problems or help people with gambling addictions. He felt that the more serious issue was controlling solitary gambling and finding ways to help people with gambling addictions that were using the internet or TV to gamble.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Director of Environment be authorised to refer the final version of the Statement of Gambling Policy to Full Council for adoption; and
- 2) That final Statement of Gambling Policy is presented to Full Council and recommended for adoption.