

LICENSING PANEL

TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Gurpreet Bhangra (Chairman), Phil Haseler, John Bowden, John Baldwin, Mandy Brar, Karen Davies, Jon Davey and Sayonara Luxton

Also in attendance: Councillor Gurch Singh

Officers: Shilpa Manek, Greg Nelson and Tracy Hendren

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Cannon and David Hilton and Councillor Sharpe was substituting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

For transparency Councillor Bhangra informed all that he held a TfL private hire licence and was a SIA close protection officer. Councillor Brar informed all that she was an RBWM licence holder.

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 April 2021 were a true and accurate record.

This was proposed by Councillor Haseler and seconded by Councillor Luxton.

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the minutes of all the Licensing and Public Space Protection Order Sub Committees were noted by the Panel.

GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - THREE YEAR REVIEW

Greg Nelson, Trading Standards and Licencing Manager, started by thanking Panel Members for their assistance with the numerous sub committees. Greg Nelson introduced the report and informed the Panel of the recommendations in the report, which were:

That the Licensing Panel noted the report and Recommended to Full Council that the RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2022 - 2025 be adopted.

Greg Nelson pointed out a typo in the report on the last page, 116, that would be amended before the report went to Full Council. For the entry in the table that read "Applications for licenced premises, gaming machines permit", should be Up to 2 machines and over 2 machines.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the report be debated.

This was proposed by Councillor Haseler and seconded by Councillor Bowden.

Councillor Haseler thanked the Officer for the report. Councillor Haseler asked that in paragraph 2.13.9, the licensing authority would expect that the licensees and the applicants would have the policies and procedures in place to protect vulnerable persons, including regular training for staff using a program. Would that program be set by the authority or do individual companies devise their own? Was there any consistency? Greg Nelson commented that the authority would follow guidance from the gambling commission on that and it was consistent across the country.

Councillor Bowden thanked Officers for all their hard work on the licensing and public space protection sub committees. Councillor Bowden commented that there was one betting shop in the high street in Windsor which is supervised by the authority. Councillor Bowden asked who supervised the betting at both Windsor and Ascot racecourses and was informed that the authority would license the premises but it was the gambling commission that covered the events for betting. The borough had carried out a large number of test purchasing in conjunction with the gambling commission and a large number of under 18s had been refused. Councillor Bowden asked about betting shops in the Dedworth and Clewer area and it was confirmed that there were three in total. Councillor Bowden pointed out that the betting shop in Windsor town centre attracted many visitors when it was busy.

Councillor Davey asked about the fees that were charged by the authority and if any of those funds were used to help gambling addicts and was there an opportunity to create a levy. Greg Nelson responded that the answer was no, the money that was charged was set in statute and it covered the cost of issuing and policing the licence and no a levy could not be introduced.

Councillor Davies commented that she was very pleased to see, after discussion at the last meeting, that the adult and children safeguarding executive steering groups had both consulted on the policy. Also it was great to see a focus on improving safeguarding for vulnerable persons. Councillor Davies asked about the ability to seek evidence as to get effectiveness of policies and procedures that the premises had put into place, was this something that the authority already did or whether it was a new thing.

Greg Nelson commented that this was already done by the authority. Inspections of gambling premises were carried out and the authority asked the premises to provide a refusals book.

Councillor Brar asked if parish councillors were no longer consulted as interested parties, and Greg Nelson informed the Panel that they had not consulted parish councils for this policy but it would definitely be taken on board for next time.

Councillor Sharpe asked how RBWM were in line with other councils. Greg Nelson advised that RBWM were more robust with the policy. The gambling commission wanted councils to write their own policies with respect to their own areas. The policies were all very different, tailored to the needs to each different authority area. RBWM were providing very robust protection for adults in the area.

Councillor Luxton asked if gambling places sold alcohol such as Windsor and Ascot racecourses. Greg Nelson commented that betting shops were not allowed to sell alcohol. Councillor Luxton asked if there were limits on gambling machines. Greg Nelson informed the Panel that there were five classes of gambling. The limits had been reduced.

Councillor Bowden asked about prominent advertising on new premises, especially in the conservation areas. Greg Nelson commented that this was not a licensing issue, planning may be able to advise.

Councillor Haseler asked why the borough had no casino's and Greg Nelson advised that this was because there were regulations in place that only 7-8 places in the country were allowed

to have a casino and RBWM cannot grant any casino licenses. This is decided by central government.

Councillor Brar asked if there were any limitations or guidelines in place and Greg Nelson informed the Panel that there were similar regulations in place like in the licensing act. These included timing restrictions, guidance of where to get help and no cash machines near-by.

Councillor Haseler proposed the officers recommendation to recommend to Full Council that the RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2022 - 2025 be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Davey.

A named vote was taken.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the Licensing Panel recommends to Full Council that the RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2022 - 2025 be adopted.

GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - THREE YEAR REVIEW (Motion)	
Councillor Gurpreet Bhangra	For
Councillor Phil Haseler	For
Councillor John Bowden	For
Councillor John Baldwin	For
Councillor Mandy Brar	For
Councillor Karen Davies	For
Councillor Jon Davey	For
Councillor Sayonara Luxton	For
Carried	

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the next meeting of the Licensing Panel would be 1 February 2022.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 7.45 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....