

Time Commenced - 6.00 pm
Time Finished - 7.00 pm

**GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
19 APRIL 2006**

Present: Councillor Khan (Chair)

Councillors Allen, Baxter, P Berry, Leeming, Jackson, Redfern,
Rehman, Richards and Skelton

27/05 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Afzal, Brown, E Berry and Marshall.

28/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29/05 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

30/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

31/05 Gambling Act Update

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services that provided an update on the Gambling Act 2005.

The Gambling Act 2005 was set to modernise the existing gambling regime. It would cover activities such as gaming, games of chance, equal chance gaming, casinos, betting and lotteries. The new law also covered remote gambling, including over the internet, telephone, television and radio.

The legislation focuses on three principal aims:

- Preventing gambling being a source of crime or disorder
- Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and the vulnerable from being harmed or exploited by gambling

It was reported that it was hoped that the Gambling Commission would publish guidance on the Act in May 2006, allowing Local Authorities to publish their own policies. After Derby's policy had been written it would be presented to the Committee, go through a full consultation period, with the aim of publication by December 2006.

Premises licence applications will be accepted from February 2007, with the law being fully implemented on 1 September 2007.

It was noted that there would be significant budgetary implications for the Council as fees charged would only allow cost recovery for the gambling licensing procedure, monitoring and enforcement and would not include any amount for the Councils' start up and transitional costs.

Resolved to note the report outlining central Government proposals and the implications for the Council.

32/05 Proposal to the Casino Advisory Panel

The Committee considered a report that set out details of a proposal submitted to the Casino Advisory Panel for permission to locate a large casino in Derby.

The Casino Advisory Panel is an independent panel that was established in September 2005 to advise the Government on the geographical areas in which the new types of casino created by the Gambling Act 2005 would be located. One regional casino, eight large and eight small casinos would be permitted. 41 local authorities had applied for a large casino.

On 31 January 2006, the Panel invited formal applications from local authorities who wanted to have a new casino in their area. Proposals needed to reach the Panel by 31 March 2006. Derby Cityscape submitted a provisional application, on behalf of the Council, subject to the final decision being made by the General Licensing Committee.

David Marshall the Director of Development at Derby Cityscape considered that the application had been supported by Derby City Partnership and the Strategic Partnership for Derby and Derbyshire. It was reported that the proposal had been endorsed by the Strategic Partnership in February 2006 and the Derby City Partnership in March 2006.

Work on the bid had been completed in conjunction with 'Tribal' consultants. Tribal had advised of a minimum of 250 extra jobs and a catalyst for other opportunities, such as a hotel and conferencing facilities.

Councillor Skelton asked why a casino was necessary when Gala Bingo had just received a new licence. David Marshall responded that the casino proposal was for 40,000 sq ft, whereas Gala Bingo was 25,000sq ft.

Councillor Allen considered that there had not been sufficient consultation, especially as many Councillors hadn't seen the proposal prior to the meeting. He also considered that Tribals' report did not focus on the social impact of the casino. John Tomlinson responded that the application only reached the licensing team three days before the application deadline and therefore did not leave enough time to consult the Committee on the proposal before submission.

Resolved

- 1. to note the Casino Advisory Panel's role in the establishment for new types of casinos and the procedure involved in selecting locations for their operation**
- 2. to recommend to Council that it supports the application to locate a large casino in Derby**
- 3. to ask officers to include in the report to Council information on the negative aspects of gambling.**

Councillors Allen and Skelton requested that their votes against the decision be recorded.

MINUTES END