

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER, 2016 AT 10:00AM**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Grice, Mrs. D. (Chairman)  
Dudson, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute)
Dean, A.	Snape, D.J.
Freeman, Miss M.A. (substitute)	Witton, P.
Grocott, M.R.	

**11. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.I. Lea, M. Sutherland and Mrs. D.M. Todd.

Councillors Miss M.A. Freeman and M.W.A. Hoare were in attendance as substitutes for Councillors Mrs. D.M. Todd and M. Sutherland, respectively.

**12. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

**13. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 27 and 28 July, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

**14. Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles 2016**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.43 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Committee noted the updated and amended Statement of Principles (The Policy) and considered the consultation responses. Members were asked to consider whether they wished to include any further issues within the final Policy which would be presented to full Council on 16 November, 2016. A number of

issues were raised and it was requested that the following comments be included within the final policy:-

A Member made reference to the use of gambling premises, particularly bookmakers, for criminal activities, such as money laundering, drug dealing and counterfeiting and asked whether the operators of betting shops could be required to make the police aware if they suspected this was taking place in their premises.

Officers explained that the Gambling Act and Statement of Principles did require gambling operators to ensure promotion of the licensing objectives:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or being used to support crime;
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Officers agreed to amend the Policy statement to include reference to specific criminal activity.

A Member expressed concern about the length of time betting shops were allowed to be open and asked if representations could be made in this regard. The Officer explained that, whilst there was concern about the opening hours of premises, the hours were set nationally. In order to restrict hours, authorities would need clear evidence of a breach of the law.

Members were concerned at the possibility of gamblers losing large amounts of money through the use of Betting Terminals, which allowed large sums to be gambled in a matter of seconds. Members asked if the numbers of machines could be restricted or the sums gambled reduced.

Officers explained that there was national concern over the use of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in bookmakers, particularly by vulnerable persons. It was also explained that licences permitted the installation of up to four such machines in each bookmaking shop, which then resulted in the opening of more shops. Officers understood that this issue was being considered in Parliament.

Officers agreed to make amendments in respect of the references to criminal activity within the policy prior to it being referred to full Council for approval and adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

That the updated and amended 2005, Statement of Principles (The Policy) and the consultation responses be noted and presented to full Council for approval and adoption on 16 November, 2016 subject to the following:

- Reference be made in the Policy to the possibility of criminal activities such as money laundering, counterfeiting and drug dealing being associated with betting premises.

The meeting closed at 11:10am

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CHAIRMAN