

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

11 MAY 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

GAMBLING ACT 2005 **PROPOSALS FOR ADOPTING APPLICATION FORMS**

1.0 Purpose of Report.

1.1 To propose that the authority adopt the application form templates provided by LACORS (Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services) to allow the effective implementation and future operation of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act").

2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

2.1 The duties of the Council under the Act are regulatory in nature and the Act sets out the licensing objectives which must be taken on board as part of any decision making process. The licensing objectives however support many of the overarching aims of the Corporate Improvement Plan and the Council's Corporate Priorities.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Act will come into force during 2007. It provides for the regulation of gambling and under the provisions of the Act the Council will be responsible for dealing with a wide variety of gaming permits.

4.0 Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Under the Act the Authority is responsible for granting licences for the following premises;

- Casinos premises,
- Bingo premises,
- Betting premises,
- Adult gaming centres, and
- Family entertainment centres.
- Club Gaming and Club Gaming Machine Permits

The application process and forms for the above premises will be prescribed by regulations and no further action is necessary.

4.2 Under the Act the Authority is also responsible for granting the following permits/accepting notifications;

- Licensed premises gaming machine permits and notifications
- Family entertainment centre gaming machine permits
- Prize gaming permits

- 4.3 Responsibility for devising the format of the application forms to be used in respect of these permits has been devolved to licensing authorities.
- 4.4 LACORS (Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services) is a professional body advising licensing authorities on the implementation of the Act. In the interests of standardization it has produced templates which local authorities may download and customize if appropriate.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the templates are adopted but with additional requirements for the applications for Family Entertainment Centre Permits. The information required reflects the policy set out in Section 5 of the authority's Statement of Gambling Principles, and will assist the authority when determining whether or not to grant such a permit. The additional information that will be required is;
- Submission of a standard Criminal Disclosure
 - Evidence that Standard Disclosures have been undertaken in respect of all staff employed in the supervision of the premises
 - Details of the measures in place for protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling
 - Information relating to training and development, and
 - Submission of a plan of the premises

5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The report content has no direct effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules but is required to effectively implement the Authority's new regulatory functions in relation to gambling.

6.0 Legal Implications.

- 6.1 The proposals recommended within the report are necessary for the effective implementation of the Gambling Act 2005.

7.0 Financial Implications.

- 7.1 None

8.0 Recommendation.

It is recommended that the authority adopt the application templates published by LACORS for all permit applications, and that in relation to applications for Family Entertainment Centre Permits, the following additional information also be sought;

- Submission of a standard Criminal Disclosure
- Evidence that Standard Disclosures have been undertaken in respect of all staff employed in the supervision of the premises
- Details of the measures in place for protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling
- Information relating to training and development, and
- Submission of a plan of the premises.

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4 May 2007

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Background documents:

Gambling Act 2005

Gambling Act 2005 Bridgend County Borough Council Statement of Licensing Principles

LACORS application form templates