

**LICENSING COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor M Lewis – Chairperson

S Easterbrook  
RM James  
S J Bletsoe

R Williams  
RJ Collins  
C Davies

J Llewellyn-Hopkins  
H T Bennett

J E Pratt  
A R Berrow

Present Virtually

Apologies for Absence

MJ Kearn and P W Jenkins

Officers:

Oscar Roberts  
Kirsty Evans  
Nick Dennison  
Nimi Chandrasena

Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services  
Senior Licensing Officer  
Solicitor  
Democratic Services Officer - Support

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

**This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**35. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> That the Minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting dated 22/05/24 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	11 September 2024

**36. Gambling Act 2005 Statement Of Licensing Principles 2025-2028**

Decision Made	<p>The Report was presented by the Senior Licensing Officer, the purpose of which was to ask the Committee to endorse the publication of the Council's Statement of Licensing Principles for the next triennial period 2025 to 2028, and to forward the policy to Cabinet and Council for final approval and publication in accordance with the regulations.</p> <p>She explained that the responsibility for licencing land-based premises as well as functions relating to issuing permits and regulations, rest with local authorities. It was expected that the local authority publish, on a three yearly basis, a statement of licencing principles governing the regulation, policy and the decision-making process relating to gambling premises. The Senior Licensing Officer stated that following a public consultation that followed the publishing of the Gambling White Paper by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the government published its conclusions and the proposals that would impact the sector. The proposals expected to impact the sector were listed as changes to casinos, gaming machines in adult gaming centres and bingo halls, cashless payments on gaming machines by removing the prohibition on the use of direct debit payment cards and finally raising the current fee cap that licencing authorities may charge premises in England and Wales by 15%.</p> <p>A discussion took place about the statistics expected to be provided by GAMCare, an independent charity providing information, advice and support to anyone affected by gambling harms. The charity had suggested gathering statistics from the National gambling helpline, which they operate to assist the authority in developing a local profile. As these statistics had not been received, the Senior Licensing Officer confirmed it would be pursued.</p> <p>There was a wider discussion between those present about the harm caused by the proposal to accept cashless payments on gaming machines. Several members voiced their concerns and dissatisfaction with the proposal and suggestions were made to explore the possibility of raising their concerns with the local MPs and/or the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.</p> <p>The Senior Licensing Officer responded that while the consultation of the White Paper on the subject had</p>
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	<p>now been completed, there was no reason that members concerns could not be voiced. She advised the the committee that she would go through the Government's consultation response to ascertain if there had been a specific response to the concerns raised by the members within this meeting.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b> : The Committee endorsed the proposed Statement of Licensing Principles as attached at Appendix A, to subsequently be forwarded to Cabinet and Council for final approval and publication in accordance with the regulations.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Senior Licensing officer would pursue the statistics expected from GAMCare and that she would update the Committee of the Government's consultation response to the concerns over the use of cashless payments.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 September 2024

**37. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	11 September 2024

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 09:49.