

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 14 August 2012

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: D Kissane (Chair), L Chester, M Gardner, L Harrington,
C Hurst, C Latif, M McKay, J Mead, M Notley and
J Pickersgill.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
End Time: 6.19 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Councillors B Underwood, L Martin-Haugh and P Stuart

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – 2 JULY 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 2 July 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. GAMBLING ACT (2005) STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES REVIEW

The Committee had before it a report requesting that Members approve a revised draft of Stevenage Borough Council's Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 and agree to a period of consultation on the proposed changes.

The Committee was advised of a small number of amendments to the draft Statement of Principles as presented which had arisen as a result of late changes to the guidelines issued by the LGA. A paper highlighting the changes was circulated to Members at the meeting.

In reply to a question the Licensing Manager confirmed that local community groups would be included in the consultation.

In reply to a further question the Committee was advised that Members could respond individually to the consultation should they choose to do so.

The Committee was further advised that companies such as Betfair were closely regulated by the Gambling Commission and would have in-house measures to monitor customer's behaviours.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. that the amendments to the draft Statement of Principles, as detailed on the revised appendix as circulated at the Meeting, be approved for inclusion in the consultation document.
2. that the request for Officers to conduct a public consultation exercise on the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles for a period of ten weeks from 17 August to 26 October 2012 with a view to reporting back to Executive on the 20 November 2012 and then to Full Council on the 5 December 2012 be approved.

4. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

The Chair took this opportunity to wish Councillor Laurie Chester a happy birthday.

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED**:

That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by SI2006 No.88.

That, having considered the reasons for the following reports being in Part II, it be agreed that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure

6. PART II MINUTES – 2 JULY 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes meeting held on 3 April 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

The Chair