STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Chairman introduced the report of the Licensing and Enforcement Officer which sought to advise and update members of the proposed revisions made to the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy before its consideration by Cabinet and Full Council in December 2015, to enable the revised Policy to come into force on 7 January 2016.

Members were advised that three representations were received during the consultation period which ran from 1 September 2015 and 12 October 2015. The Licensing and Enforcement Officer clarified the details relating to a representation made by the Norfolk Association of Village Halls, explaining that whilst their request that the Council notify them each time a user requested a temporary event notice could not be incorporated into the Statement of Licensing Policy, they could do so within their own individual village hall terms and conditions.

In response to a members query regarding the issue of noise nuisance, officers explained that the Licensing Act was clear in stating that the Statement of Licensing Policy could not overlap other regulations in place, and that the Council had other powers to control noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour in the area.

The Committee discussed the late night levy and was advised that whilst Norwich City Council were commencing a consultation with the Police and Crime Commissioner to implement a late night levy due to problems in the City Centre, there were very few establishments within South Norfolk with similar issues and, therefore, SNC had no plans to implement a levy in the District.

The Licensing and Enforcement Officer gave a brief summary of a change in the Licensing Act regarding late night refreshment, as detailed in the Statement, and
advised that the Council had no plans to change its current processes but that officers had consulted with the responsible authorities and would report back to the Committee if any changes were felt to be necessary.

Members discussed Section 12 in the Policy and it was suggested and agreed to make a minor amendment to two parts of the wording which would now read:

“where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided”

and

“Where regulated entertainment provided on premises is commonly of an adult or sexual nature…”

After further discussion, it was RESOLVED:

• to recommend that Council adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy, subject to two minor amendments as given above;

and

• to authorise the Director of Growth and Localism to carry out all regulatory processes to enable the Policy to come into effect on 7 January 2016.

2 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Licensing and Enforcement Officer presented her report which sought to advise and update members of the proposed revisions made to the Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy before its consideration by Cabinet and Full Council in December 2015, to enable the revised Policy to come into force on 31 January 2016.

Members were advised that four representations were received during the consultation period which ran from 1 September 2015 and 12 October 2015. The Licensing and Enforcement Officer summarised the details relating to a representation made by Gosschalks on behalf of the Association of British Bookmakers, as detailed in her report.

The Committee discussed a clause in the Policy regarding the requirements for operators offering gaming machines and non-remote betting. Members agreed that the regulations around betting were complex and that the wording should remain unchanged.

After a brief discussion regarding small lotteries and bingo, it was RESOLVED:

• to recommend that Council adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy;

and

• to authorise the Director of Growth and Localism to carry out all regulatory processes to enable the Policy to come into effect on 31 January 2016.

(The meeting closed at 10.20 am)

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Chairman