
Implementation of the Gambling Act 2005

1.0 Matter for consideration

- 1.1 To receive an update on the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the content of the report

3.0 Information

- 3.1 The Gambling Act will come into force fully on the 1st September 2007 when the responsibility for issuing licences for casinos, bingo halls and betting offices will be transferred to the local authority in its capacity as licensing authority.
- 3.2 Figures received from the Magistrates' Court indicate that there are approximately 4 casinos, 3 bingo halls, and 41 betting offices currently. All of these premises will be entitled to "grandfather rights".
- 3.3 It had been anticipated that the gambling commission would start receiving applications for operating and personal licences from 1st January 2007, with the local authority accepting applications for premises licences from 31st January 2007. Due to delays in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, necessary regulations have not been issued for this to happen, therefore Central Government have amended the timescales so the local authority now, will not accept applications until 30th April 2007.
- 3.4 Due to the delays with the regulations, it is anticipated that training for Members will now take place in February/March 2007.
- 3.5 Fees have not yet been set. The authority will be able to set its own fees to ensure cost recovery in respect of premises licences, although the fee must be within a fee band determined by the Government. A consultation document on these fee bands is expected shortly, with the final decision being made in January 2007. Fees for permits will be set centrally.

4.0 Financial considerations

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal considerations

- 5.1 None

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Appendices attached:

None

Background papers:

None

Websites and e-mail links for further information:

None

Glossary:

None