

Public Document Pack

Blackpool Council

18 June 2020

To: Councillors Critchley, Hunter and R Scott

The above members are requested to attend the:

LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 26 June 2020 at 10.00 am

To be held via Zoom meeting available online at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhctOMv0wSg>

A G E N D A

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

To appoint a Chairman for the meeting.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST - LICENSING

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:-

(1) the type of interest concerned

(2) the nature of the interest concerned; and

(3) whether they have or have not sat on a Planning Committee which has previously considered a planning application in respect of a licensed premises which is also subject to consideration for a premises licence as part of the agenda for this meeting.

If any Member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

(Members are asked to also pay particular attention to the guidance sheet on interests supplied with the agenda).

3 PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING

The Chairman of the Panel will summarise the procedure and announce the equal maximum amount of time for each party to speak for the hearing.

- A. Items 1 and 4 (b) will be undertaken in private session by the Panel and not in the Meeting Room.
- B. Items 2, 3, 4(a) and 4(c) will be recommended to the Panel to be held in public.
- C. The Panel may decide to exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in public. (This includes a party and any person assisting or representing a party)

4 APPLICATION FOR A NEW BINGO PREMISES LICENCE - MERKUR SLOTS 40 ABINGDON STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1DA (Pages 1 - 28)

To consider an application for a new bingo premises licence for Merkur Slots, 40 Abingdon Street, Blackpool, FY1 1DA.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477229, e-mail john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Report to:	LICENSING PANEL
Relevant Officer:	Sarah Chadwick, Licensing Officer
Date of Meeting :	26 June 2020

APPLICATION FOR A NEW BINGO PREMISES LICENCE – MERKUR SLOTS, 40 ABINGDON STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1DA

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an application for a new Bingo Premises Licence under the Gambling Act 2005 for Merkur Slots, 40 Abingdon Street, Blackpool, FY1 1DA.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The panel are requested to determine the application.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 This application must be determined by a panel.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None, once an application is submitted and representations received it must be considered by the Licensing Panel.

4.0 Background Information

4.1 On 17 March 2020 the Licensing Service received an application from Cashino Gaming Ltd for a new Bingo Premises Licence for Merkur Slots, 40 Abingdon Street, Blackpool.

4.2 The application requests the licence to be granted for the default hours for a bingo premises, i.e. 09.00 to midnight, for permitted gaming (bingo). There are no restrictions on the hours in which gaming machines may be made available for use.

4.3 In the application Cashino Gaming Limited are described as operating “a national estate of licensed bingo arcades which include the provision of Bingo Plus and Bingo Express terminals.”

4.4 Two representations have been received from interested parties who operate businesses in the vicinity of the proposed premises who have expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed premises on vulnerable persons in the town centre.

4.5 **Local policy considerations**

As the representations raise concerns in relation to vulnerable persons, section 4.8 – General standards for all gambling premises - is relevant:

“High standards are expected from operators of gambling premises within the Borough to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives. The licensing authority will place a high priority on social responsibility. In exercising its statutory powers, the authority will have due regard, where relevant, to the need to:

- Prevent gambling related problems in individuals and groups at risk of gambling addiction;
- Promote informed and balanced attitudes, behaviours and policies towards gambling and gamblers by both individuals and by communities; and
- Protect vulnerable groups from gambling related harm.

The licensing authority will consider, in relation to any particular premises, whether any special considerations apply to the protection of vulnerable persons. Such considerations need to be balanced by the authority’s objective to aim to permit the use of premises for gambling.”

It should be noted that complaints about nuisance cannot be resolved through the Gambling Act 2005.

4.6 **National policy considerations**

5.18 Licensing authorities need to consider, in relation to particular premises, whether any special considerations apply in relation to the protection of vulnerable persons. This could be a local risk that is reflected in the licensing authority’s policy statement. Any such considerations need to be balanced against the authority’s objective to aim to permit the use of premises for gambling.

5.31 Licensing authorities should not turn down applications for premises licences where relevant objections can be dealt with through the use of conditions. In determining applications for premises licences and permits, a licensing authority may

request as much information as it requires to satisfy itself that all the requirements set out at s.153 of the Act are met.

4.7 **Observations**

When considering applications made under the Gambling Act the licensing authority's primary obligation is to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks that is:

- In accordance with the relevant codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- In accordance with the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- Reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- In accordance with the Council's statement of licensing policy

Further to the representations being received, on 28 May 2020 the applicant's solicitors, Poppleston Allen, provided some comments by email in relation to the concerns raised and gave further information about the operator, Cashino Gaming Limited. A request was made to determine the application without the need for a hearing on the grounds that the representations made "will certainly not influence the Authority's determination of the application" as per S162 of the Gambling Act 2005. That request was declined in favour of the application being determined by a Licensing Panel hearing.

A copy of that email is attached.

There are a number of mandatory and default conditions which attach to a bingo premises licence if granted:

Mandatory Conditions

1. A notice stating that no person under the age of 18 years is permitted to play bingo on the premises shall be displayed in a prominent place at every entrance to the premises.
2. No customer shall be able to enter the premises directly from any other premises in respect of which one of the following permissions has effect –
 - (a) a casino premises licence;
 - (b) an adult gaming centre premises licence;
 - (c) a betting premises licence other than a track premises licence; and
3. (1) This paragraph shall apply where children or young persons or both are permitted by the licence holder to enter the premises, and Category B or C gaming machines are made available for use on the premises.
(2) Any area of the premises to which category B and C gaming machines are located –

- a. shall be separated from the rest of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than by an entrance designed for the purpose;
 - b. shall be supervised at all times to ensure children or young persons or both do not enter the area; and
 - c. shall be arranged in such a way that ensures all parts of the area can be observed by the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (3).
- (3) The reference to supervision in this paragraph means supervision by –
- a. one or more persons whose responsibilities include ensuring children or young persons or both do not enter the area; or
 - b. closed circuit television which is monitored by one or more persons whose responsibilities include ensuring that children or young persons or both do not enter the area.
- (4) A notice stating that no person under the age of 18 years is permitted to enter the area shall be displayed in a prominent place at the entrance to any area of the premises in which Category B or C gaming machines are made available for use.
4. (1) In the case of a charge for admission to the premises, a notice of that charge shall be displayed in a prominent place at the principal entrance to the premises.
- (2) In the case of any other charges in respect of gaming, a notice setting out the information in sub-paragraph (3) shall be displayed at the main point where payment for the charge is to be made.
- (3) The notice in sub-paragraph (2) shall include the following information –
- a. the cost (in money) of each game card (or set of game cards) payable by an individual in respect of a game of bingo;
 - b. in respect of each game card (or set of game cards) referred to in paragraph (a) the amount that will be charged by way of a participation fee for entitlement to participate in that game; and
 - c. a statement to the effect that all or part of the participation fee may be waived at the discretion of the person charging it.
- (4) The notice may be displayed in electronic form.
- (5) A reference in this paragraph to a charge in respect of gaming does not include an amount paid for an opportunity to win one or more prizes in gaming to which section 288 of the 2005 Act (meaning of “prize gaming”) applies.
5. (1) The rules of each type of game that is available to be played the premises other than games played on gaming machines shall be made available to customers within the premises.
- (2) The condition in sub-paragraph (1) may be satisfied by –
- a. displaying a sign setting out the rules,
 - b. making available leaflets or other written material containing the rules, or
 - c. running an audio-visual guide to the rules prior to any bingo game being commenced.
6. Any ATM made available for use on the premises shall be located in a place that requires any customer who wishes to use it to cease gambling in order to do so.

Default Conditions

1. Subject to paragraph 2, no facilities for gambling shall be provided on the premises between the hours of midnight and 9am.
2. The condition in paragraph 1 shall not apply to making gaming machines available for use.

4.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

4.9 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4(a) - Application

Appendix 4(b) - Representation from B Chambers

Appendix 4(c) - Representation from T Hallam

Appendix 4(d) - Additional information from applicant's solicitors (28 May 2020)

5.0 **Legal considerations:**

5.1 Please see local and national policy in the background information.

6.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

6.1 None

7.0 **Equalities considerations:**

7.1 None

8.0 **Financial considerations:**

8.1 None

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17 MAR 2020

**Application for a premises licence
under the Gambling Act 2005 (standard form)**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you are completing this form by hand, please write legibly in block capitals using ink. Use additional sheets if necessary (marked with the number of the relevant question). You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

Where the application is—

- In respect of a vessel, or
- To convert an authorisation granted under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 or the Gaming Act 1968,

the application should be made on the relevant form for that type of premises or application.

Part 1 – Type of premises licence applied for

Regional Casino <input type="checkbox"/>	Large Casino <input type="checkbox"/>	Small Casino <input type="checkbox"/>
Bingo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adult Gaming Centre <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Entertainment Centre <input type="checkbox"/>
Betting (Track) <input type="checkbox"/>	Betting (Other) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Do you hold a provisional statement in respect of the premises? Yes No

If the answer is “yes”, please give the unique reference number for the provisional statement (as set out at the top of the first page of the statement):

Part 2 – Applicant Details

If you are an individual, please fill in Section A. If the application is being made on behalf of an organisation (such as a company or partnership), please fill in Section B.

Section A

Individual applicant

1. Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other (please specify)

2. Surname: _____ Other name(s): _____

[Use the names given in the applicant's operating licence or, if the applicant does not hold an operating licence, as given in any application for an operating licence]

3. Applicant's address (home or business – *[delete as appropriate]*):

Postcode:

4(a) The number of the applicant's operating licence (as set out in the operating licence):

4(b) If the applicant does not hold an operating licence but is in the process of applying for one, give the date on which the application was made:

5. Tick the box if the application is being made by more than one person.

[Where there are further applicants, the information required in questions 1 to 4 should be included on additional sheets attached to this form, and those sheets should be clearly marked "Details of further applicants".]

Section B

Application on behalf of an organisation

6. Name of applicant business or organisation: **Cashino Gaming Limited**

7. The applicant's registered or principal address:

**Seebeck House
1A Seebeck Place
Milton Keynes
Postcode: MK5 8FR**

8(a) The number of the applicant's operating licence (as given in the operating licence):
000-003266-N-103444

8(b) If the applicant does not hold an operating licence but is in the process of applying for one, give the date on which the application was made: **N/A**

9. Tick the box if the application is being made by more than one organisation.

[Where there are further applicants, the information required in questions 6 to 8 should be included on additional sheets attached to this form, and those sheets should be clearly marked "Details of further applicants".]

Part 3 – Premises Details

10. Proposed trading name to be used at the premises (if known): **Merkur Slots**

11. Address of the premises (or, if none, give a description of the premises and their location):
**40 Abindgon Street
Blackpool
Postcode: FY1 1DA**

12. Telephone number at premises (if known): **N/A**

13. If the premises are in only a part of a building, please describe the nature of the building (for example, a shopping centre or office block). The description should include the number of floors within the building and the floor(s) on which the premises are located.

Ground floor premises, high street location.

14(a) Are the premises situated in more than one licensing authority area? **No**

14(b). If the answer to question 14(a) is yes, please give the names of all the licensing authorities within whose area the premises are partly located, other than the licensing authority to which this application is made:

N/A

Part 4 – Times of operation

15(a). Do you want the licensing authority to exclude a default condition so that the premises may be used for longer periods than would otherwise be the case? **No**

[Where the relevant kind of premises licence is not subject to any default conditions, the answer to this question will be no.]

15(b). If the answer to question 15(a) is yes, please complete the table below to indicate the times when you want the premises to be available for use under the premises licence. **N/A**

	<i>Start</i>	<i>Finish</i>	<i>Details of any seasonal variation</i>
Mon			
Tue			
Wed			
Thurs			
Fri			
Sat			
Sun			

16. If you wish to apply for a premises licence with a condition restricting gambling to specific periods in a year, please state the periods below using calendar dates: **No**

Part 5 – Miscellaneous

17. Proposed commencement date for licence (leave blank if you want the licence to commence as soon as it is issued): (dd/mm/yyyy)

18(a). Does the application relate to premises which are part of a track or other sporting venue which already has a premises licence? **No**

18(b). If the answer to question 18(a) is yes, please confirm by ticking the box that an application to vary the main track premises licence has been submitted with this application.

19(a). Do you hold any other premises licences that have been issued by this licensing authority?
No

19(b). If the answer to question 19(a) is yes, please provide full details:

20. Please set out any other matters which you consider to be relevant to your application:

The operator operates a national estate of licensed bingo arcades which include the provision of Bingo Plus and Bingo Express terminals.

The operator has full authority to provide licensed bingo by the provision of an Operating Licence granted by the Gambling Commission. The UK's Gambling Regulator has therefore approved the measures implemented to ensure that effective anti-money laundering procedures are implemented and our policies have been developed to ensure responsible trading in accordance with the gambling legislation, the licensing objectives and the licence conditions and code of practice.

Part 6 – Declarations and Checklist (Please tick)

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this application is true. We understand that it is an offence under section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 to give information which is false or misleading in, or in relation to, this application.

We confirm that the applicant(s) have the right to occupy the premises.

Checklist:

- Payment of the appropriate fee is enclosed
- A plan of the premises is enclosed
- We understand that if the above requirements are not complied with the application may be rejected
- We understand that it is now necessary to advertise the application and give the appropriate notice to the responsible authorities

Part 7 – Signatures

21. Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent. If signing on behalf

of the applicant, please state in what capacity:

Signature:



Print Name: Poppleston Allen

Date: 16 March 2020

Capacity: Solicitors for & on behalf of the applicant

22. For joint applications, signature of 2nd applicant, or 2nd applicant's solicitor or other authorised agent. If signing on behalf of the applicant, please state in what capacity:

Signature:

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Capacity: _____

[Where there are more than two applicants, please use an additional sheet clearly marked "Signature(s) of further applicant(s)". The sheet should include all the information requested in paragraphs 21 and 22.]

[Where the application is to be submitted in an electronic form, the signature should be generated electronically and should be a copy of the person's written signature.]

Part 8 – Contact Details

23(a) Please give the name of a person who can be contacted about the application:

Hannah Worthington

23(b) Please give one or more telephone numbers at which the person identified in question 23(a) can be contacted:

0115 9349 190

24. Postal address for correspondence associated with this application:

Hannah Worthington

Poppleston Allen

37 Stoney Street

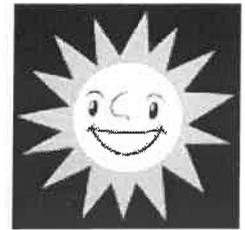
The Lace Market

Nottingham

Postcode: **NG1 1LS**

25. If you are happy for correspondence in relation to your application to be sent via e-mail, please give the e-mail address to which you would like correspondence to be sent:

h.worthington@popall.co.uk



THE LICENSING OBJECTIVES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Objective 1 - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.

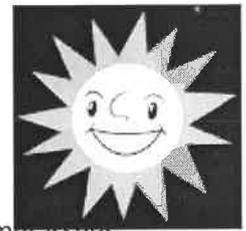
- Cashino Gaming Limited is aware that it must notify the Gambling Commission should we suspect that offences under the Gambling Act 2005 are being committed.
- Cashino Gaming Limited complies with the Commission's advice on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- Cashino Gaming Limited has completed its own Business Anti-money laundering risk assessment, local area risk assessments and implements anti-money laundering policies and procedures.
- If we suspect anyone of using our premises for the furtherance of criminal activity (for instance drug dealing, using counterfeit money, selling suspected stolen property and criminal damage) we will contact the police immediately, report to our Head of Compliance and record the instance in the AML and Incidents modules of the electronic Smart Tablet system.
- All Cashino Gaming Limited premises operate digital CCTV and customer areas are supervised.
- Cashino Gaming operates a group-wide Security Alert system where incidents are shared instantly with all licenced premises. We have an internal Fraud Measures Team that respond to and investigate incidents. As a BACTA member, we receive nationwide Security Alerts, which are circulated via the Security Alert system to all licenced premises.
- The employees in Cashino Gaming premises are required to carry a portable alarm which is provided by Staff Guard, a nationwide security company that offers 24hr support via a monitoring centre with fully trained operatives who advise on difficult situations and escalate appropriately.
- Cashino Gaming Limited has an extensive security, audit and money laundering team monitoring employees and customer activity.
- All Cashino Gaming employees complete six-monthly refresher training which covers this licencing objective; anti-money laundering policies and procedures; and guidance on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- Cashino Gaming operate a robust late night working policy, which is fully supported by a full-time Night Manager.
- Cashino Gaming do not operate a single-manning policy between 8pm and 6am, however, should an emergency occur a 'locked door' and 'keep in touch' policy is implemented.

Objective 2 - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.

- Our gaming rules are prominently displayed in each of our licensed premises.
- Our employees have a full understanding of machine gaming rules.

Cashino Gaming Limited

Operational Standards



- We encourage customer-facing employees to use positive discretion to resolve customer issues at a local level, where possible.
- Our Customer Complaints procedure is displayed prominently in every venue. Where customer disputes cannot be resolved satisfactorily, we refer all potential disputes to our appointed Alternate Dispute Resolution provider (IBAS).
- All venue managers attend our National Training Centre for a thorough induction programme prior to taking on responsibility of their own venue and team.
- All licensed premises employees receive induction and six-monthly refresher training during the course of their employment to ensure that potential issues can be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

Objective 3 - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

- All our licensed premises are strictly adult only and we provide appropriate notification on entry, on all marketing material and throughout our premises.
- We operate a Think 25 policy as standard and all employees are trained to request a photographic form of identity if they suspect that a customer is under age. All challenges are recorded on our Smart Tablet system under Age Verification Checks and Check Policy are our third-party independent partner for compliance testing.
- All licensed premise employees receive induction and six-monthly refresher training during the course of their employment on social responsibility and safeguarding children and vulnerable people, with a particular focus on the prevention of harm.
- We prominently display information throughout our licensed premises on responsible gambling and provide details of organisations that can provide support and guidance such as BeGambleAware.
- Playright is installed in all licensed premises - this is a self-help App available to customers to enable them to manage spend and play time.
- Socially Responsible messaging is implemented on B3 and Category C digital machines.
- All licensed premise employees are trained to identify potential at risk customers and conduct effective interactions. Customer interactions are recorded on the Interactions module on the electronic Smart Tablet and reviewed centrally by the Compliance team.
- We implement a self-exclusion policy throughout our licensed premises and operate a Smart Tablet system for recording self-exclusions, reinstatements and breaches. We are also members of the Bingo Association Multi-Operator Self-exclusion Scheme.
- The layout of our premises is designed to facilitate customer supervision by employees.
- We provide an annual donation in support of research, education and treatment of problem gambling.

All three licensing objectives are embedded at all levels within the organisation via training both on-line and face to face, during Operational meetings, Business Bulletin communications, Compliance/Audit visits and annual conferences.



LOCAL GAMBLING RISK ASSESSMENT

Premises Name:	Blackpool		
Premises Address:	Mercur Slots, 40 Abingdon Street, Blackpool, FY1 1DA		
Operator Premises Code:	917	Area Manager:	Area
Category of gambling premises licence:	Bingo	Staffguard System: Y/N	Yes
Premises Licence Number:	0	24 hours opening:	Yes
Local Authority details:	Blackpool Council		
Name of person completing assessment:	Gill Chulow	Position within Company:	Senior Auditor
Date original Assessment completed:	22/12/2019		
Date of Assessment Review:	06/02/2020		
Reason for Assessment Review:	New Premise Application		

REQUIREMENT TO COMPLY – social responsibility code provision 10.1.1 – with effect from 6th April 2016

All non-remote casino, adult gaming centres (AGC), family entertainment centres (FEC), bingo, betting and remote betting intermediary (trading room only) licences, except non-remote general betting (limited) and betting intermediary licences.

This risk assessment must be completed based upon the local risks to the licensing objectives posed when applying for a new gambling premises licence and when applying for a variation of a premises licence.

Licenses must review and update their local risk assessment when internal/external changes take place in each of their premises which may affect the mitigation of local risk, taking into account significant changes to local area circumstances, including those identified in a licensing authority's statement of licensing policy. Some authorities have included details of their local area profiles, which you can refer to for further information.

Online TV code provision 10.1.2

Licenses are required to share their risk assessment with Licensing authorities when applying for a premises licence or applying for a variation to existing licensed premises, or otherwise on request.

LOCAL AREA PROFILE

Useful websites:

- <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk>
- <http://www.ukcrimestats.com>
- <http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-statistics>
- <https://www.findmyschool.co.uk>
- <https://checkmypostcode.uk>
- <https://postcodearea.co.uk>
- <https://www.google.com/maps>
- <https://www.police.gov>

<p>Premises Design and Gambling Operation We have reviewed Blackpool Statement of Gambling Principles and reference relevant sections 4.9 for Adult Gaming Centres and 4.2 Local Risk Assessments, 4.3 local Area profile and 4.8 General Standards. The venue will be fitted with a HD CCTV system that is clearly advertised to customers with screens visible by employees when working in the service area. Floor layout will enable supervision of entrances and machines from the central service area. The premise and employees will be protected by a employee Guard security system and intruder alarms will be installed. Premises Logs - Information pertaining to the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice will be recorded electronically using the IHL SmartTablet with the data evaluated centrally via the back office. The proposed venue will operate under a Bingo License, with a range of category B3, C and D machines and proprietary bingo equipment. Premises frontage will be of a style which obscures the interior with appropriate advertising inline with Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice. External windows will have digital marketing screens which will display safer gambling messages, Think 25, Bingo Played Here, opening times and promotional activity.</p>	<p>Local Risk The venue is located in Blackpool town centre, on a busy street running between Talbot Road and the Winter Gardens, it has a variety of retail units and food outlets. Talbot Road a few minutes walk away has a variety of bars and restaurants incl Molloys open 10am - 11pm 1am at weekends, The Little Pug open 10am - 1am, 2am at weekends and The Victoria open 11am - 11pm, midnight Thurs and Sun and 1am Fri and Sat. The unit next door is operated as an over 18s AGC by Warwick Amusements. William Hill Bookmakers is a few minutes walk away on Talbot Road. Connect Blackpool is located lower down Talbot Road which provides Sexual Health services for young people and Blackpool Homeless project bchp.org.gov is also on Talbot Road, across Talbot Road further along Abingdon Street is The Ashley Foundation providing support and accommodation for The Homeless. The area has a higher than average White population at 94%, Eng. 80%. Census 2011, unemployment in the area is 6.1%, and Talbot ward it is an area of high deprivation 11th in England. The closest schools are St Johns Church primary and All Saints after School and Holiday Club both 1 mile away.</p>	<p>Local Crime Analysis (police.uk) We have reviewed the Police.UK hot-spot mapping for the area and we are aware of the areas of Recorded Crime, Vulnerable People and Vulnerable Places and are very mindful of the potential damage associated with problem gambling. We will make every effort to liaise with local police over reducing our involvement in any incident. Crime in the areas is 54% above average and at 246/1000 ranked at 6 out of 104 local postcodes.</p>	<p>Assessment of premises incident records (Past 12 Months)</p>
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The Gambling Act 2005 sets out the three licensing objectives (LO), which are:

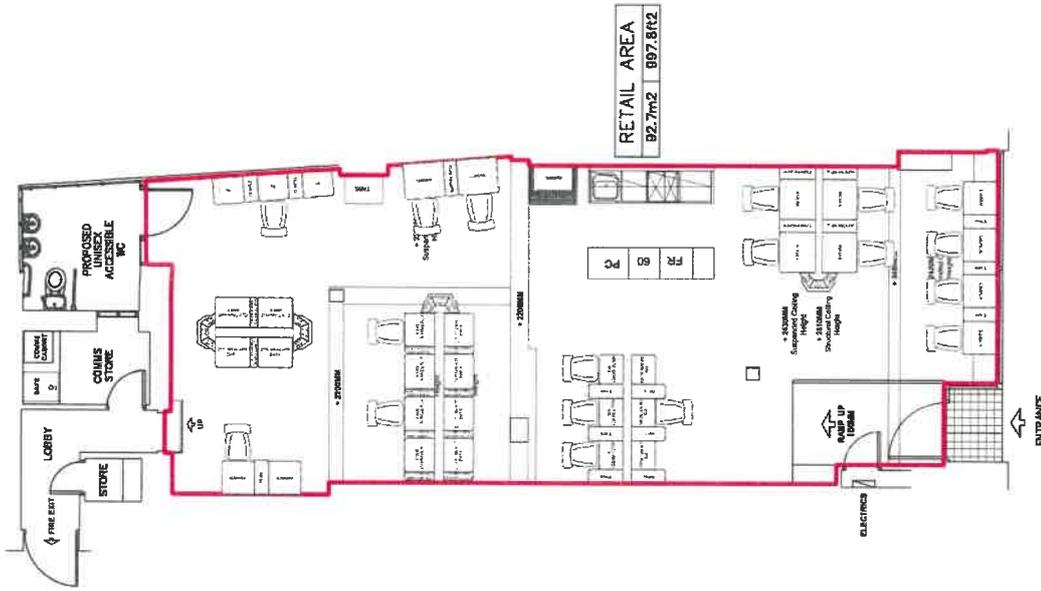
CD - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.

FO - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.

CV - Protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

LO	Local Risk Detail	Degree of Risk (Severity vs Likelihood)	Control Measures	Updated
CD	Failure to identify the occurrence to launder money on our premises (e.g. dyed stained notes, fake notes, foreign coins) and to adhere to reporting policies and procedures.	Moderate	<p>Systems: employees trained on the requirements to comply with the Money Laundering Regulations and the Company AML Policy. Customer Interaction used to identifying potential suspects, behaviour, spend patterns and the use of change machines.</p> <p>Designs: Open design with vision across the venue floor.</p> <p>Physical: IHL Smart Tablet to record incidents with emails direct to the AMLO tablet. Shared security alerts and photos of suspects with operators nationally. CCTV systems available for additional monitoring of activity. MARS (machine data capture system) provides individual transactions and fraud alerts for suspicious activity.</p> <p>Systems: Security Alert system allows the sharing of information on criminal activity across all venues and relevant employees. Key management policy in place. Regular checks on Emergency exits and equipment. Extensive monitoring of employees and customer activity from Audit Department.</p> <p>Designs: Open design with vision across the venue floor</p> <p>Physical: Staffguard security system. HD CCTV system installed with remote viewing available. Time lock safe installed. Monitored intruder alarm system installed. Machine data monitoring in MARS.</p> <p>Systems: employee training on how to deal with aggressive customers and situations which may also require police assistance.</p>	Jan-20
CD	Poor security control measures which may increase vulnerability to crime	Low	<p>Designs: Open design with vision across the venue floor</p> <p>Physical: Staffguard security system. HD CCTV system installed with remote viewing available. Time lock safe installed. Monitored intruder alarm system installed. Machine data monitoring in MARS.</p> <p>Systems: employee training on how to deal with aggressive customers and situations which may also require police assistance.</p>	Jan-20
CD	To identify aggressive customers to prevent crime and disorder (will be dependent on customers who frequent premises)	Low	<p>Designs: Open design with vision across the venue floor.</p> <p>Physical: Smart Incident app on the IHL Tablet used to record all incidents Inc. crime reference number, supporting emails and back office report monitoring. Security Group email in operation Inc. BACTA alerts.</p>	Jan-20
CD	Awareness of local crime issues in the local area	Low	<p>Systems: Annual LARA review, policies and procedures for communication of change in local issues. Reference to http://www.police.uk, http://www.ukcrimestats.com, http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-statistics.</p> <p>Designs:</p> <p>Physical: Membership of local Town Radio schemes where available. Security group email alerts.</p>	Jan-20
CD	Failure to protect employee and customers from harm during the hours of late night opening	Low	<p>Systems: Lone working and night working procedures in place. Use of locked Door policy. Full time Support Night Manager available throughout the night.</p> <p>Designs:</p> <p>Physical: Night Time contact number, HD CCTV system, Staffguard Security System.</p>	Jan-20
FO	Failure to prevent customer complaints and disputes regarding gambling within our premises.	Low	<p>Systems: Management and monitoring of reported faults via MARS. Machines maintained by trained persons. Machine standards audited on regular basis. Gaming rules prominently displayed at entrance to each venue. Employees have full understanding of machine gaming rules. Machine Standards Policy in place.</p> <p>Designs: Stakes, prize levels and % payouts are clearly displayed on all machines.</p> <p>Physical: Gambling machines comply with technical standards and are acquired from licensed suppliers only.</p>	Jan-20

FO	Failure to resolve customers complaints and disputes regarding our gambling premises.	Low	<p>Systems: Complaints management policy in place for written and telephoned complaints. Complaints portal used to collate and manage responses. 4 stage complaints procedure with ADR entity Independent Betting Adjudication Service Ltd (IBAS) for unresolved complaints. Employees encouraged to use positive discretion to resolve customer issues in venue.</p> <p>Designs</p> <p>Physical: Code of Practice and Complaints and Disputes policy displayed at venue entrance. Complaints and Disputes policy leaflets available within the venue.</p> <p>Systems: Proof of Age scheme in place with application forms available in the venue. 3rd party company - Check Policy employed for underage verification testing. Persons who are unable to provide proof of age are refused entry.</p> <p>Designs: Think 25 policy and posters are displayed at entrance and within the premises. Think 25 badges form part of employee uniform. Entrance door signage and machines display 'No Under 18's'. Marketing and Promotions complies with standards set by the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice.</p> <p>Physical: Age verification app on the IHL tablet used to record all Age verification challenges. All entrances and venue floor are monitored by employees.</p> <p>Systems: employees trained on customer interaction and how to identify and interact with players who exhibit signs of developing problem gambling, identifying players whose behaviour changes.</p> <p>Designs:</p> <p>Physical: Playright App available in venues to assists players with managing their gambling. IHL tablet used to record all incidents of customer interaction with email alerts to Compliance Manager who has access to back office for additional monitoring.</p> <p>Systems: Employees are provided with the training to enable them to provide guidance on safer and responsible gambling.</p> <p>Designs: Stay in Control posters and leaflets promoted at venue entrance, within the venue and in washroom areas.</p> <p>Physical: Socially Responsible messaging is implemented on B3 and digital Cat C machines. All machines display Gamble Responsibly stickers with helpline contact details.</p> <p>Systems: Essentials of Compliance and Safe Guarding Vulnerable People Induction training and 6 monthly refresher training for all employees. This training includes administering the self exclusion process and interacting with players. Central monitoring of all exclusions, breeches, reinstated customers and customer interactions by Compliance Manager.</p> <p>Designs: Tablet available for use of all employees.</p> <p>Physical: Self exclusions logged on IHL Tablet Smart App. Information is shared across all operators. Members of Bingo Association Multi-operator Self Exclusion scheme.</p> <p>Systems: Essentials of Compliance, Safeguarding and lone working trained on Inductions and refreshed 6 monthly for all employees. Compliance Manager attendance at Manager Meetings for refresher and update training. Review of all logs on IHL back office to identify and promptly target venues where changes are exhibiting.</p> <p>Designs: On-line training platform and two regional training centers.</p> <p>Physical: Compliance and Social Responsibility Folder with all policies and procedures available to all employees. Venue Managers review logs monthly. Area Managers Bi monthly and Compliance Audits twice yearly.</p>	Jan-20
CV	Ensuring Under 18's do not have access to licensed premises	Low		
CV	To identify signs associated with problem gambling and people who may be at risk of gambling related harm	Moderate		Jan-20
CV	Failure to provide information to customers on responsible gambling	Low		Jan-20
ALL	Failure to maintain and administer the self-exclusion process, including breaches and reinstatement reviews	Low		Jan-20
ALL	Training & Social Responsibility			Jan-20



FOR ILLUSTRATION
PURPOSES ONLY

Ground Floor Plan 1:50

REVISIONS

FIT OUT TYPE
FUTURE VENUE

PROJECT
MERKUR SLOTS
40 ABINGDON STREET
BLACKPOOL
FY1 1DA

DESCRIPTION
PROPOSED MACHINE PLAN

REFERENCE DRAWINGS

SCALE
1:50

DRAWN BY

DATE
00/00/00

DRAWING No.

??-PR-05

REVISION



MERKUR
SLOTS

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ABINGDON BARBECUE

44 Abingdon Street, Blackpool FY1 1DA

31/3/20

06 APR 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Licence Application Objection – former Corals 40 Abingdon Street Blackpool

I run the business 2 doors away from the site of this proposed bingo hall.

I am concerned that further premises opening late in the street will create a potential gathering place for the many homeless and vulnerable people begging from customers and gathering in the area out of hours.

The council is doing its best to keep the streets clear for the people of the town but these people are a problem and will deter shoppers from the area.

I am sure other traders and local shoppers would agree but are away from their shops at the moment because of the coronavirus and not able to comment.

I urge you to refuse the licence applied for.

Yours



B.T. CHAMIZENS.

Licensing

Blackpool Council

Municipal Buildings

Corporation Street

Blackpool FY1 1NA

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Blackpool Council
Licencing Department
Municipal Buildings
Corporation Street
Blackpool
FY1 1NA

06 APR 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

I believe the council should to protect vulnerable people (of which there seem to be many more in Blackpool town centre than elsewhere), restrict more gambling premises with one armed bandits from grouping together in this part of the town centre.

There is a gaming arcade right next door!

There are problems with these groups which are only found in Blackpool and which don't occur in other centres like Preston or other seaside towns such as St Annes or Fleetwood.

Please refuse the application because of this.

Tony HALLAM,
 31/3/20

The Bread Basket
33 Abingdon Street
Blackpool
FY1 1DG

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From: Richard Bradley <R.Bradley@popall.co.uk>
Sent: 28 May 2020 16:58
To: Sarah Chadwick <sarah.chadwick@blackpool.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Merkur Slots, 40 Abingdon Street, Blackpool, FY1 1DA - Bingo Premises Licence Application - Hearing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation.

Dear Sarah,

I hope this email finds you well.

I have reviewed the representations received and have provided our comments below.

We note that none of the Responsible Authorities have raised concerns or provided representations regarding our client's proposals, those of most relevance being the Licensing Authority, the local police licensing team and Children's Services.

We appreciate that the representations raise general concerns regarding the protection of the vulnerable and the possibility that the venue would be used as a 'gathering place' for homeless individuals. However, neither representation provides evidence to support the assumptions and both fail to consider our client's proposals and the operational standards implemented to promote the Licensing Objectives under the Gambling Act 2005 that mitigate any perceived risk.

Cashino Gaming Limited is a leading national operator of bingo premises with clear and proactive policies to promote the Gambling Licensing Objectives. The Applicant has full authority to provide bingo facilities through the grant of an Operating Licence by the Gambling Commission, which has approved the measures which have been put in place to ensure that responsible trading is carried out in accordance with gambling legislation, the Licensing Objectives and the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice. The Applicant's Operating Licence also requires that policies and procedures are put into effect, which promote socially responsible gambling.

All Cashino Gaming Limited's licensed premises are strictly adult only and appropriate notification and signage is provided on entry and on all marketing material. Cashino Gaming Limited operates a Think 25 policy as standard for all its venues and all employees are trained to request a photographic form of identity if they suspect that a customer is under age.

All Merkur Slots premises limit the line of site into venues and all advertising is compliant with the Advertising Standards Authority's CAP and BCAP codes for gambling advertising and the Gambling Industry Group for Responsible Gambling Advertising Code. As such, all premises advertisements do not target nor are they designed to appeal to under age individuals and the possibility of viewing ambient gambling from the public highway is minimised.

We have provided a copy of Cashino Gaming Limited's Operational Standards document, which highlights the extensive security and socially responsible gambling measures applied to Cashino Gaming Limited's gambling estate. A detailed local area risk assessment has also been provided, which has been developed in consideration of the local area profile and local crime statistics.

The Applicant provides an annual assurance statement to the Gambling Commission, which is designed to identify Company strategy, policy and procedure, which ensures accountability for the delivery of the licensing objectives by relevant senior management. The statement provides a concise self-assessment of any risks to the Licensing Objectives posed by the operator's business, how well the operator is managing those risks and where it may improve its operation and how it intends to do so. Statements provide operators the opportunity to reflect on their continuing commitment to regular operational assessment and excellence.

The Applicant's national training measures, policies and procedures have been developed to ensure that the Licensing Objectives are upheld and have continually proven to be effective and robust with no Cashino Gaming Limited bingo premises being subject to review proceedings.

Paragraph 5.34 of the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities states:

"Licensing authorities should be aware that other considerations such as moral or ethical objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences. In deciding to reject an application, a licensing authority should rely on reasons that demonstrate that the licensing objectives are not being, or are unlikely to be met" and that "an authority's decision cannot be based on dislike of gambling, or a general notion that it is undesirable to allow gambling premises in an area (with the exception of the casino resolution powers)".

Paragraph 1.9 of the Council's Gambling Act Statement of Policies and Principles refers to section 162 of the Gambling Act 2005, which addresses the requirements for hearing to determine any application. The Licensing Authority can determine the application without a hearing under section (3) (a) (b) (c) of Section 162 of the Gambling Act 2005 on the basis that the Authority think that the representations made under Section 161 of the Gambling Act 2005 are:-

- (a). vexatious;
- (b). frivolous; or
- (c). will certainly not influence the Authority's determination of the application.

The representations received (s.162(3)(c)) 'will certainly not influence the Authority's determination of the application' and it can be granted without a hearing.

A hearing has the effect of putting the Applicant to the expense of preparing for a hearing, providing for advocates to attend and also has the effect of causing the Licensing Authority extra work and expense. More importantly, the valuable time of Committee members is used in attending a hearing for an application that should really be granted as there are no grounds upon which it should be refused. In this respect we have regard to the guidance which allows the delegation of powers/functions to Licensing Sub Committees or to one or more Officers.

Given the current circumstance and logistical complications in organising a licensing sub-committee hearing within a reasonable timeframe following completion of the consultation period, we believe that it will be cost effective for the Authority to exercise the powers available to it under the Gambling Act 2005 in respect of the current application, which should be granted if the matter was determined by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Whilst the current representations address the Licensing Objective of protection of the vulnerable from harm associated with gambling, the proposed concerns relate to general harm and do not provide evidence to support the perceived risk in respect of the premises proposed operation and the standards implemented to mitigate any risk.

The Council may dismiss the representations without stating that it is vexatious but on the grounds that it would not influence the determination of the application.

Critically:

1. The Licensing Authority is duty bound to aim to permit licensing applications which it considers to comply with the Gambling Commission's Code of Practice and Guidance, the Licensing Objectives and the Licensing Authority's Gambling Policy;
2. Consistently with 1 above, the Council has been given a power by Parliament to disregard objections and determine applications without a hearing in a number of circumstances. These include where it considers that the application will "certainly not influence the authority's determination of the application". Section 162 (3)(c); and
3. It is noted that this power is wider than a power to disregard representations which do not relate to the Licensing Objectives or which are frivolous or vexatious. The representation may be relevant to the Licensing Objectives and may also be neither frivolous or vexatious. Yet if the authority considers that the representation will certainly not influence determination it may disregard it. It is a merits based decision.

We have successfully obtained this favourable outcome for a number of premises licence applications throughout the Country with the most recent involving Westminster and Birmingham City Councils.

All the Authority has to do under Section 162 (4) is to notify the interested party as soon as is reasonably practicable that it proposes to determine the application in reliance of Section 162 of the Gambling Act notifying the particular sub-section be it 3 (a), (b), or (c).

We would like you to consider that the representations received "*will certainly not influence the authority's determination of the application*" and that the application can therefore be granted without a hearing in accordance with S.162(3)(c) of the Gambling 2005.

If the Authority determines that a hearing is still required, I would be grateful for an update as to when a hearing may be listed, along with potential dates, and whether it is to be held remotely or in person.

I thank you for your time and consideration and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Bradley | Associate Solicitor

Poppleston Allen

E:R.Bradley@popall.co.uk | T:0115 9487 424 | W:www.popall.co.uk

Nottingham Office: 37 Stoney Street, The Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1LS



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