

GAMBLING POLICY WORKING GROUP**WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006 AT 2.00PM****PRESENT:** Councillors Morton (Chairman), Boaden and Mrs Farmer.

Officers: J Messenger – Licensing Manager
C Liddle – Principal Solicitor
R Rooney – Committee Support Officer

GPWG.03/06 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Licensing Manager submitted report LDS.58/06 regarding the progress of the consultation period for the Gambling Policy.

The Licensing Manager reported that the consultation period for the Draft Policy Statement began on 3 July and was more than half way through. He reported that there had been very little response and that the Licensing Office had only received three letters regarding the Policy. He stated that although there had been limited response, the letters that had been received had some good ideas, some of which will be included in the conditions. He reported that additional letters had been sent out to Age Concern, Citizen Advice Bureau and Carlisle Voluntary Service as requested by Members.

In response to Members questions the Licensing Manager stated that there had been no responses from Elected Members but he had organised for an item to be placed in a members bulletin as a reminder.

The Licensing Manager reported that the Guidance to the Licensing Act set the Gaming Machine limit at two and requests for any additional machines would go before the Regulatory Panel. When the Authority took over the licensing of Gaming Machines the Licensing Office found that the Magistrates Court had previously granted three machines in many cases. The Regulatory Panel had agreed delegated authority to Officers to grant up to that maximum number.

He explained that the once the consultation period had ended on 22 September 2006, this Working Group would then examine the responses at its next meeting. The final draft of the Policy would go before the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive and thereafter to full Council for final adoption.

RESOLVED – 1) That report LDS.58/06 be noted.

2) That the Licensing Manager liaises with the Communications Unit to put a reminder about the consultation deadlines in the press.

3) That the next meeting of the Gambling Policy Working Group on 5 October 2006 be agreed.

(The meeting ended 2.10pm)