

Public Document Pack



Regulatory Committee

Monday, 18 September 2006 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Ged Philbin (Chairman)
Councillor Stephen Pearsall (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Arthur Cole
Councillor Carl Cross
Councillor Philip Drakeley
Councillor Robert Gilligan
Councillor Diane Inch
Councillor Alan Lowe
Councillor Steff Nelson
Councillor Ernest Ratcliffe
Councillor Kevan Wainwright

*Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 471 7395 or e-mail gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Monday, 13 November 2006*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached and (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members) to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.</p>	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

AGENDA ITEM NO

REPORT TO	Regulatory Committee
DATE	18 September 2006
REPORTING OFFICER	Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Gambling Act 2005
WARDS	Boroughwide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the Committee on the timetable for the Statement of Gambling Policy

**2. RECOMMENDED: That
The report is noted****3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 On 20 June 2005 the Regulatory Committee received a report on the Gambling Act 2005. The members were advised that the structure of the Gambling Act 2005 is similar to the structure of the Licensing Act 2003. In particular there is a requirement for the Council to adopt a statement of gambling policy, which is analogous to the Statement of Licensing Policy adopted under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.2 The Government has recently announced that statements of gambling policy must be in force by the end of January 2007. A statement of gambling policy must be adopted by the Council at least one month before that date. A meeting of full Council is scheduled for 13 December 2006 and that would be a suitable date for adopting the statement. A consultation draft statement of gambling policy is attached as Appendix 1 to this agenda.
- 3.3 The Council can only adopt the statement after formal consultation in accordance with the 2005 Act. The draft statement of gambling policy will be presented to the Executive Board on 7 September 2006 for endorsement. Following the Executive Board meeting it is anticipated that the formal consultation period begin on or about 8 September 2006 and end w/c 23 October 2006. This will allow a reasonable time for

consideration of comments from consultees. The list of consultees is set out in the attached draft statement of gambling policy.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are major policy implications for the Council brought about by the 2005 Act. The council must adopt a statement of gambling policy which will inform the way gambling licence applications are dealt with in the future. The committee will receive ongoing reports on the full implications of the Act.

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications from this report.

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100d LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

This report is based on the Gambling Act 2005 and other statutory Instruments held by the Council

Halton Borough Council
STATEMENT OF
GAMBLING POLICY
Gambling Act 2005

**Approved by Halton Borough
Council on 2006 (Minute)**

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Draft Statement of Gambling Policy s349 Gambling Act 2005

PART A**1. The Licensing Objectives**

In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:

- 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

It should be noted that the Gambling Commission has stated: "The requirement in relation to children is explicitly to protect them from being harmed or exploited by gambling".

2. Introduction

Halton Borough Council ("the Council") is situated in the County of Halton and is a Unitary Authority. Halton Borough comprises the towns of Widnes and Runcorn and surrounding villages of Hale, Daresbury, Moore, and Preston Brook. It is predominantly an urban area with a population of 118,208 (2001 Census).

Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a statement of the principles which they proposed to apply when exercising their functions. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from "time to time" and the any amended parts re-consulted upon. The statement must be then re-published.

The Council consulted upon this policy statement before finalising and publishing it. A list of the persons we consulted is provided below. It should

be noted that comments were also received from a number of other persons who were not individually consulted but we have not listed all of these.

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties are consulted by Licensing Authorities:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- One or more persons who appear to the authority represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Gambling Act 2005

List of persons this authority consulted:

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Halton Borough Council Children & Young People Directorate
- Halton Borough Council Health & Community Directorate
- The Bingo Association
- Association of British Bookmakers
- British Amusement Catering Association
- Responsibility in Gambling Trust (U.K.)
- GamCare
- The general public through local advertisement and the Council's website
- Showboat Unit 29-33a Forest Walk Halton Lea Runcorn

It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Declaration

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In producing this licensing policy statement, this licensing authority declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the policy statement.

4. Responsible Authorities

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under Section 157(h) of the Act to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group etc

The Council designates the Halton Borough Council Children & Young People Directorate for this purpose.

The contact details of all the Responsible Bodies under the Gambling Act 2005 are available from Legal Services Licensing Section

5. Interested parties

Interested parties can make representations about licence applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

“For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the applications is made, the person-

- a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be

affected by the authorities activities,

- b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- c) represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)”

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

Each case will be decided upon its merits. The Council will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities. Note that decisions though on Premises Licences must be “in accordance” with Gambling Commission Guidance.

The Gambling Commission has recommended that the licensing authority states that interested parties include trade associations and trade unions, and residents' and tenants' associations. This authority will not however generally view these bodies as interested parties unless they have a member who can be classed as one under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005 e.g. lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the activities being applied for.

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MP's. Other than these persons, this authority will require written evidence that a person 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorities activities and/or business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

If individuals wish to approach Councillors to ask them to represent

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their views then care should be taken that the Councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then please contact the licensing department (*insert contact details*).

6. Exchange of Information

Licensing authorities are required to include in their policy statement the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under sections 29 and 30 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions under section 350 of the Act with the respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

The principle that this licensing authority applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that the Data Protection Act 1998 will not be contravened. The licensing authority will also have regard to Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to Local Authorities on this matter, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

7. Enforcement

Licensing authorities are required by regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.

This licensing authority's principles are that:

It will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities and as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, it will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary; remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects

This licensing authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

This licensing authority will also, as recommended by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, adopt a risk-based inspection programme.

The main enforcement and compliance role for this licensing authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the Premises Licences and other permissions which is authorised. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the Operator and Personal Licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the licensing authority but will be notified to the Gambling Commission. This authority also understands from LACORS that the Gambling Commission will be responsible for compliance as regards unlicensed premises.

This licensing authority will also keep itself informed of developments as

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regards the work of the Better Regulation Executive in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.

licensing remote gambling at all. This will fall to the Gambling Commission via Operator Licences.

8. Licensing Authority functions

Licensing Authorities are required under the Act to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing *Premises Licences*
- Issue *Provisional Statements*
- Regulate *members' clubs* and *miners' welfare institutes* who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue *Club Machine Permits* to *Commercial Clubs*
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at *unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres*
- Receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) of the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Grant *Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits* for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where more than two machines are required
- Register *small society lotteries* below prescribed thresholds
- Issue *Prize Gaming Permits*
- Receive and Endorse *Temporary Use Notices*
- Receive *Occasional Use Notices*
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

It should be noted that local licensing authorities will not be involved in

PART B PREMISES LICENCES

1. General Principles

Premises Licences will be subject to the permissions/restrictions set-out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which will be detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.

This licensing authority is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

Definition of "premises" - Premises is defined in the Act as "any place". It is for the licensing authority to decide whether different parts of a building can be properly regarded as being separate premises and as the Gambling Commission states in its Guidance for local authorities, it will always be a question of fact in the circumstances. The Gambling Commission does not however consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separate can be properly regarded as different premises.

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This licensing authority takes particular note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities which states that in considering applications for multiple licences for a building or those for a specific part of the building to be licensed, entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised and that people do not 'drift' into a gambling area.

This licensing authority will also take note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities that: Licensing authorities should pay particular attention to applications where access to the licensed premises is through other premises (which themselves may be licensed or unlicensed).

Location - This licensing authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, this authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder. Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, this policy statement will be updated. It should be noted that any such policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how the concerns can be overcome.

Duplication with other regulatory regimes - This authority will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems where possible, including planning. This authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be

awarded planning or building consent, in its consideration of it. This authority will though listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.

Licensing objectives - Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, this licensing authority has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities and some comments are made below.

Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime – This licensing authority is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it.

Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way - This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission in its Guidance for local authorities has stated that generally the Commission would not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business, and therefore subject to the operating licence, or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual and therefore subject to the personal licence. This licensing authority also notes, however, that the Gambling Commission also states in relating to the licensing tracks the licensing authorities' role will be different from other premises in that track operators will not necessarily have an operating licence. In those circumstances the

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premises licence may need to contain conditions to ensure that the environment in which betting takes place is suitable. This licensing authority understands that there may be further guidance from the Gambling Commission on this issue which it will have regard to, when available.

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

This licensing authority has noted the Gambling Commission Guidance to local authorities states that the objective talks of protecting children from being “harmed or exploited by gambling, but in practice that often means preventing them from taking part in or being in close proximity to gambling.

This licensing authority will pay particular attention to any Codes of Practice which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective in relation to specific premises such as casinos. It is understood that a Code for casinos must:

- specify steps that the premises licence-holder must take to ensure that children and young persons (that is those under the age of 18) do not enter casino premises, or in the case of the regional casino do not enter the gambling area;
- amongst those specified steps, ensure that each entrance to the casino or gambling area is supervised by at least one person (“the supervisor”) who is responsible for compliance with the code of practice; and
- require that, unless the supervisor is certain that a person seeking admittance is an adult, evidence of age must be required of all those seeking to enter the casino or gambling area.

As regards the term “vulnerable persons” it is noted that the Gambling Commission is not seeking to offer a

definition but states that it will for regulatory purposes assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gambling beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs. This licensing authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis. Should a practical definition prove possible in future then this policy statement will be updated with it, by way of a revision.

Conditions - Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises:
and
- reasonable in all other respects.

Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of control measures this licensing authority will consider utilising should there be a perceived need, such as the use of door supervisors, supervision of adult gaming machines, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in this regard under each of the licence types below. This licensing authority will also expect the licence applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

It is noted that there are conditions which the licensing authority cannot attach to premises licences which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition

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- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes

Door Supervisors - The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities may consider whether there is a need for door supervisors in terms of the licensing objectives of protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and also in terms of preventing premises becoming a source of crime. It is noted though that the Gambling Act 2005 has amended the Security Industry Act and that door supervisors at casinos or bingo premises cannot be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. This licensing authority may therefore has specific requirements for door supervisors working at casinos or bingo premises.

2. Adult Gaming Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. Appropriate licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry

- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

3. (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres:

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas. Appropriate licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operator licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. This licensing authority will also make itself aware of any mandatory or

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default conditions on these premises licences, when they have been published.

4. Casinos

The Council did not make an application for new casinos under the Gaming Act 1968 (prior to the deadline of 26th April 2006). Consequently 'Section 4. Casinos' is not directly relevant to this Statement but is included for the sake of completeness.

No Casinos resolution - This licensing authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005, but is aware that it has the power to do so. Should this licensing authority decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution.

Casinos and competitive bidding - This licensing authority is aware that where a licensing authority area is enabled to grant a Premises Licence for a new style casino (i.e. the Secretary of State has made such regulations under Section 175 of the Gambling Act 2005) there are likely to be a number of operators which will want to run the casino. In such situations the local authority will run a 'competition' under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005. This licensing authority will run such a competition in line with any regulations issued under the Gambling Act 2005 by the Secretary of State.

Betting machines - This licensing authority is aware that, as explained in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities: Section 181 contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence or to a casino premises licence (where betting is permitted in the casino). When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the

number of betting machines in particular premises, the licensing authority, amongst other things, should take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable persons.

Credit - This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission has stated in its Guidance for Local Authorities that section 177 does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers (ATMs) on the premises. Such machines may accept credit cards (and debit cards) and the arrangement is subject to a requirement that the licensee has no other commercial connection in relation to gambling (aside from the agreement to site the machines) with the service-provider and does not profit from the arrangement, not make any payment in connection with the machines. Guidance on the further conditions that may apply in relation to such machines will be included in the next version of this guidance

5. Bingo premises

This licensing authority notes that the Gambling Commission's Guidance states:

- Licensing authorities will be able to find information about the restrictions that apply in the codes of practice that will be published on the Commission's website.
- Further guidance will be issued in due course about the particular issues that licensing authorities should take into account in relation to the suitability and layout of bingo premises.

Once this information is available, this licensing authority will consider its application to premises licences for bingo premises.

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6. Betting premises

Betting machines - It is noted that the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: "Section 181 contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence or to a casino premises licence (where betting is permitted in the casino). When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the licensing authority, amongst other things, should take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable persons."

Credit - It has also been noted that the Gambling Commission Guidance states: section 177 does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers (ATMs) on the premises. Such machines may accept credit cards (and debit cards) and the arrangement is subject to a requirement that the licensee has no other commercial connection in relation to gambling (aside from the agreement to site the machines) with the service-provider and does not profit from the arrangement, nor make any payment in connection with the machines. It is also understood that the Gambling Commission will be placing restrictions and requirements on Operating Licences for betting premises as regards credit and this licensing authority will consider the guidance when it is available.

7. Tracks

This licensing authority is aware that the Gambling Commission may provide further specific guidance as

regards tracks. We have taken note of the Guidance from the Gambling Commission which highlights that tracks are different from other premises in that there may be more than one premises licence in effect and that the track operator may not be required to hold an operator licence as there may be several premises licence holders at the track which will need to hold their own operator licences.

There may be some specific considerations with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling and this authority would expect the premises licence applicants to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities. It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, although they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided.

Appropriate licence conditions may be:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- The location of gaming machines

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

Betting machines - Licensing authorities have a power under the

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Gambling Act 2005, to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available, by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence. The Gambling Commission's Guidance will be noted in that it states: In relation to betting premises away from tracks, the Commission is proposing that licensing authorities should take into account the size of the premises and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by vulnerable people when determining the number of machines permitted. Similar considerations apply in relation to tracks, where the potential space for such machines may be considerable, bringing with it significant problems in relation to the proliferation of such machines, the ability of track staff to supervise them if they are scattered around the track and the ability of the track operator to comply with the law and prevent children betting on the machine. Licensing authorities will want to consider restricting the number and location of betting machines, in the light of the circumstances of each application for a track betting premises licence.

This licensing authority also notes that, In the Commission's view, it would be preferable for all self-contained premises operated by off-course betting operators on track to be the subject of separate premises licences. This would ensure that there was clarity between the respective responsibilities of the track operator and the off-course betting operator running a self-contained unit on the premises.

Condition on rules being displayed - The Gambling Commission has advised in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities should attach a condition to track premises licences requiring the track operator to ensure that the rules are prominently displayed in or near the betting areas, or that other measures

are taken to ensure that they are made available to the public. For example, the rules could be printed in the race-card or made available in leaflet form from the track office.

8. Travelling Fairs

It will fall to this licensing authority to decide whether, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is to be made available for use at travelling fairs, the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met.

The licensing authority will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

It has been noted that the 27-day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair, is per calendar year, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. This licensing authority will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses our boundaries is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

9. Provisional Statements

This licensing authority notes the Guidance for the Gambling Commission which states that it is a question of fact and degree whether premises are finished to a degree that they can be considered for a premises licence and that requiring the building to be complete ensures that the authority could, if necessary, inspect it fully.

In terms of representations about premises licence applications, following the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account

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unless they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances. In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- (a) which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional licence stage; or
- (b) which is in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances.

This authority has noted the Gambling Commission's Guidance on not taking into account irrelevant matter: one example of an irrelevant matter would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning or building regulations approval for the proposal.

10. Reviews:

Requests for a review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities, however, it is for the licensing authority to decide whether the review is to be carried-out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below, as well as consideration as to whether the request is frivolous, vexatious, will certainly not cause this authority to wish alter/revoke/suspend the licence, or whether it is substantially the same as previous representations or requests for review.

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

The licensing authority can also initiate a review of a licence on the basis of any reason which it thinks is appropriate.

PART C

Permits / Temporary & Occasional Use Notice

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits (Statement of Principles on Permits – Schedule 10 para 7)

Where a premises does not hold a Premises Licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the licensing authority for this permit. It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use (Section 238).

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may prepare a *statement of principles* that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit and in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under section 25. The Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities also states: In their three year licensing policy statement, licensing authorities may include a statement of principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions in considering applications for permits...., licensing authorities will want to give weight to child protection issues. Further guidance on the information that should be obtained from the applicant and others will be provided in the next version of this guidance.

The Guidance also states: An application for a permit may be granted only if the licensing authority is satisfied that the premises will be used

Draft Statement of Gambling Policy s349 Gambling Act 2005

as an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre, and if the chief officer of police has been consulted on the application. Relevant considerations to take into account would include the applicant's suitability, such as any convictions that they may have that would make them unsuitably to operate a family entertainment centre; and the suitability of the premises in relation to their location and issues about disorder.

It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit and that the statement of principles only applies to initial applications and not to renewals.

Statement of Principles = This licensing authority will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however, they may include BRC checks for staff, training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises, or children causing perceived problems on / around the premises.

With regard to renewals of these permits, a licensing authority may refuse an application for renewal of a permit only on the grounds that an authorised local authority officer has been refused access to the premises without reasonable excuse, or that renewal would not be reasonably consistent with pursuit of the licensing objectives.

2. (Alcohol) Licensed premises gaming machine permits – (Schedule 13 Para 4(1))

There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming

machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the licensing authority. The licensing authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with)
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises

If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the licensing authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and "*such matters as they think relevant.*" This licensing authority considers that "such matters" will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines. Measures which will satisfy the authority that there will be no access may include the adult machines being in site of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also be help. As regards the

Draft Statement of Gambling Policy s349 Gambling Act 2005

protection of vulnerable persons this applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would need to be applied for, and dealt with as an Adult Entertainment Centre premises licence.

It should be noted that the licensing authority can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

It should also be noted that the holder of a permit to must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

3. Prize Gaming Permits – (Statement of Principles on Permits - Schedule 14 Para 8 (3))

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a Licensing Authority may “prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule” which “may, in particular, specify matters that the licensing authority propose to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit”.

This licensing authority has not prepared a statement of principles. Should it decide to do so it will include details in a revised version of the policy statement.

In making its decision on an application for this permit the licensing authority does not need to have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but that the licensing authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

4. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

Members Clubs and Miners’ welfare institutes (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Clubs Gaming machines permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in forthcoming regulations. A Club Gaming machine permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D).

Gambling Commission Guidance for local authorities states: Members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted “wholly or mainly” for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is

Draft Statement of Gambling Policy s349 Gambling Act 2005

permitted by separate regulations. It is anticipated that this will cover bridge and whist clubs, which will replicate the position under the Gaming Act 1968. A members' club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men's clubs, branches of Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations.

The Guidance also makes it clear that before granting the permit the authority will need to satisfy itself that the premises meet the requirements of a members' club and may grant the permit if the majority of members are over 18.

This Licensing Authority is aware that: Licensing authorities may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- (a) the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- (b) the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- (c) an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- (d) a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- (e) an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

It should be noted that there is a 'fast-track' procedure available for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. As the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the ground upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced and that

the grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- (a) that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12;
- (b) that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- (c) that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

5. Temporary Use Notices

There are a number of statutory limits as regards Temporary Use Notices. It is noted that it falls to the licensing authority to decide what constitutes a 'set of premises' where Temporary Use Notices are received relating to the same building / site.

6. Occasional Use Notices:

The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The licensing authority will though need to consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

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AGENDA ITEM NO

REPORT TO	Regulatory Committee
DATE	18 September 2006
REPORTING OFFICER	Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Licensing
WARDS	Boroughwide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members on the type and number of licences issued by Legal Services and to decide if training is required by members on any of the licences.

2. RECOMMENDED: That

- (a) the information contained in the Appendix be noted; and
- (b) Members identify any training requirements on the areas of licensing

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Legal Services are responsible for issuing a number of licences and permits ranging from Animal Boarding Establishments to Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles.
- 3.2 The attached document at appendix 1 identifies the nature of licensing and consists of Tables 1 to 12
- 3.3 Members may be familiar with some of the licences and permits issued but not with others and may feel that training is required on the unfamiliar ones.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications from this report.

**6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100d
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Legal Services Licensing in Tables

Introduction Nature of Licensing

Licensing covers a whole spectrum of controls which have been imposed by Parliament over many years.

The underlying purpose of Local Authority licensing is protection: of people, animals or the environment.

Some licensing is really just a simple registration system (e.g. Scrap Metal Dealing and Dealing in Game).

Some comprise more elaborate registration systems (e.g. Street Collection Permits and Societies Lotteries) where the issue of the permit is not the end of the process.

Some licensing relates to animal welfare (e.g. riding establishment permits) where establishing proper welfare conditions is a pre-condition of grant.

Other types of licensing involve consideration a range of policy considerations and often complex interactions between applicants and the public (e.g. Taxi Licensing and Alcohol/Entertainment Licensing).

It follows from the above that the process of licensing can vary from a straight application and grant (two transactions) to a range of interactions over a period of months leading to a grant (or conditional grant) or refusal of an application – the latter two giving rights of appeal.

For all but the simplest type of licence the application process involves contact with a range of internal departments (mainly planning, highways and environmental officers) and external agencies (mainly police and fire authorities) together with other disciplines (e.g. Vets).

Charges for licences are equally variable. Some charges are set by the Council, some by central government, and some can't be charged for.

The following Tables provide a snapshot of a number of issues associated with Licensing.

Table 1
Primary and Principal Secondary Legislation involved and Government Guidance

Licence type administered by Legal Services	Primary and Principal Secondary Legislation involved and Government Guidance
Animal Boarding Establishments	Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 Amusements With Prizes (Variation of Fees) Order 1991 Home Office Circular 100/1988
Dangerous Wild Animals	Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (Modification) Order 1984
Dog Breeding	Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 Breeding of Dogs (Licensing Records) Regulations 1999
Game (Dealing in)	Game Act 1831 Game Licences Act 1860 Fees for Game and Other Licences (Variation) Order 1968
Gaming Machines	Gambling Act 1968 Gaming Act (Variation of Monetary Limits) (No. 2) Order 1999 Home Office Circular 20/1996 Home Office Circular 42/1998
Hawkers	Cheshire County Council Act 1980
Hypnotism	Hypnotism Act 1952
House to House Collections	House to House Collections Act 1939 House to House Collections Regulations 1947 as amended
Lotteries	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 The Lotteries Regulations 1993 Home Office Guidance 1994 Gaming Board: Lotteries and the Law 1997
Motor Salvage Operators	Vehicle (Crime) Act 2001 Motor Salvage Operators Regulations 2002 Motor Salvage Operators (Specified Offences) Order 2002 Home Office Guidance 2002
Pet Shops	Pet Animals Act 1951 Pet Animals Act 1951 (Amendment) Act 1983

Performing Animals**** **** From September 2006	Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 Performing Animals Rules 1925 Home Office Circular 12/1999 Home Office Circular 1/2000
Riding Establishments	Riding Establishments Act 1964 Riding Establishments Act 1970
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964	
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982	
Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916 Borough of Halton (Street Collections) Regulations 1974	
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982	
Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Transport Act 1981 Transport Act 1985 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Local Services (Operation by Taxis) Regulations 1986 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Taxis)(Carrying of Guide Dogs etc.)(England and Wales) Regulations 2000 Department of Transport Circular 8/86 DOT Circular 2/92 and HO Circular 13/92	
Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Transport Act 1981 Transport Act 1985 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Local Services (Operation by Taxis) Regulations 1986 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Taxis)(Carrying of Guide Dogs etc.)(England and Wales) Regulations 2000 Department of Transport Circular 8/86 DOT Circular 2/92 and HO Circular 13/92	
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences	Licensing Act 2003 Licensing Act 2003 (Personal Licences) Regulations 2005 Licensing Act 2003 (Premises

	Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005 Licensing Act 2003 (Licensing Authority's Register)(Other Information) Regulations 2005 Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings Regulations) 2005 Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005 Licensing Act 2003 (Permitted Temporary Activities)(Notices) Regulations 2005 Cinematograph (Safety) Regulations 1955 Section 182 Statutory Guidance 2006
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Table 2
Rights of Appeal against Refusal to grant

Licence type administered by Legal Services	Right of Appeal Against Refusal to grant?
Animal Boarding Establishments	Y Magistrates' Court
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	Y Crown Court
Dangerous Wild Animals	Y Magistrates' Court
Dog Breeding	Y Magistrates' Court
Game (Dealing in)	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Gaming Machines	Y Crown Court
Hawkers	Y Magistrates' Court
Hypnotism	N (Judicial Review)
House to House Collections	N (Judicial Review)
Lotteries	Y Crown Court
Motor Salvage Operators	Y Magistrates' Court
Pet Shops	Y Magistrates' Court
Performing Animals	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Riding Establishments	Y Magistrates' Court
Scrap Metal Dealers	<i>Not applicable</i>
Sex Shops	Y Magistrates' Court (then Crown Court)
Street Collections	N (Judicial Review)
Street Trading	Y Magistrates' Court (then Crown Court)
Taxi & Private Hire Drivers/Operators	Y Magistrates' Court (then Crown Court)
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles	Y magistrates' Court (then Crown Court)
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences	Y Magistrates' Court

Table 3
Persons involved other than Legal Services

Licence type administered by Legal Services	Persons involved other than Legal Services
Animal Boarding Establishments	EHOs; Vets
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	
Dangerous Wild Animals	EHOs; Vets
Dog Breeding	EHOs Vets
Game (Dealing in)	Post Office
Gaming Machines	Police
Hawkers	Town Centre Manager
House to House Collections	Charities Commission; Police
Hypnotism	
Lotteries	Charities Commission
Motor Salvage Operators	Police
Pet Shops	EHOs
Performing Animals	EHO's
Riding Establishments	EHOs; Vet
Scrap Metal Dealers	Police
Sex Shops	Police
Street Collections	Charity Commission; Police
Street Trading	Highways; EHOs; Town Centre Manager
Taxi & Private Hire Drivers/Operators	CRB; DVLA; Occupational Health; Police; other licensing authorities; HDL
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles	HBC Fleet Management Section; Insurers; Police; other Licensing authorities; HDL
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences	Police; Planning Authority; Health & Safety Authority; Environmental Health Authority; Child Welfare Authority; various maritime and waterways authorities

Table 4
Licence types repealed since 2000

Licences types repealed since 2000 (***) replaced by new Licence Type)	NOTES
Cinema Licences ***	See Alcohol and Entertainment Licences
Theatre Licences ***	See Alcohol and Entertainment Licences
Entertainment Licences ***	See Alcohol and Entertainment Licences
Late Night Refreshment Premises ***	See Alcohol and Entertainment Licences
Door Supervisors	Now licensed through Security Industry Authority. The SIA scheme replaces the non-statutory arrangements operated by the Council.

Table 5
New Licence types created since 2000

	New Licence types created since 2000
	Premises Licences
	Personal Licences
	Club Premises Certificates
	Motor Salvage Operators
	Gaming Machines on Licensed Premises

Table 6
Licence types to be repealed by 2008

Licence types to be repealed by 2008 (***) replaced by new Licence Type)	
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes) ***	
Gaming Machine Permits ***	
Lotteries ***	

Table 7
New Licence types to be created by 2008

	New Licence type to be created by 2008
	Casino Premises
	Bingo Premises
	Adult Gaming Centre
	Family Entertainment Centre
	Betting Premises
	Lotteries
	Licensed Premises Gaming machines
	Club Machine Permits
	Prize Gaming Permits

Table 8
Other Potential Legislation in 2007/2008

Other Potential Legislation in 2007/2008
Animal Welfare Bill (relevant to most animal related licensing)
Charities Bill (Street and House to House Collections regime)
Deregulation Order (Game Licensing and Game Management)

Table 9
Public Involvement

Licence type administered by Legal Services	Public Consulted on Policy	Public Consulted on Applications	Public Active on Complaints about Licence Holders
Animal Boarding Establishments	N/A	N/A	N
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	N/A	N/A	N
Dangerous Wild Animals	N/A	N/A	N
Dog Breeding	N/A	N/A	N
Game (Dealing in)	N/A	N/A	N
Gaming Machines	N/A	N/A	N
Hawkers	N/A	N/A	N
House to House Collections	N/A	N/A	N
Hypnotism	N/A	N/A	N
Lotteries	N/A	N/A	N
Motor Salvage Operators	N/A	N/A	N
Pet Shops	N/A	N/A	N
Performing Animals	N/A	N/A	N
Riding Establishments	N/A	N/A	N
Scrap Metal Dealers	N/A	N/A	N
Sex Shops	N/A	Y	N
Street Collections	N/A	N/A	N
Street Trading	N/A	N/A	N
Taxi & Private Hire Drivers/Operators	N/A	N/A	Y
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles	N/A	N/A	Y
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences	Y	Y	Y

Table 10
Miscellaneous

	Applica tion in Person	Application by Post	Automatic Entitlement to Grant	Policy Matters Involved	Multiple Contacts Involved before Decision
Animal Boarding Establishments	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	N	Y	Y**	Y**	N
Dangerous Wild Animals	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Dog Breeding	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Game (Dealing in)	Y#	N	Y	N	N
Gaming Machines	N	Y	N**	Y	N
Hawkers	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
House to House Collections	N	Y	N	Y	N
Hypnotism	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Lotteries	N	Y	N	Y	N
Motor Salvage Operators	N	Y	N	Y	N
Pet Shops	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Performing Animals	N	Y	?	?	?
Riding Establishments	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Scrap Metal Dealers	N	Y	Y	N	N
Sex Shops	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Street Collections	N	Y	N	Y	N
Street Trading	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Taxi & Private Hire Drivers/Operators	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences	N	Y	N	Y	Y

Table 11
Charges

Licence type administered by Legal Services	Charges set by Central Government	No charges allowed	Charges set by the Council
Animal Boarding Establishments			Y
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	Y		
Dangerous Wild Animals			Y
Dog Breeding			Y
Game (Dealing in)	Y		
Gaming Machines	Y		
Hawkers			Y
House to House Collections		Y	
Hypnotism		Y	
Lotteries	Y		
Motor Salvage Operators			Y
Pet Shops			Y
Performing Animals			Y
Riding Establishments			Y
Scrap Metal Dealers		Y	
Sex Shops			Y
Street Collections		Y	
Street Trading			Y
Taxi & Private Hire Drivers/Operators			Y
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles			Y
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences	Y		

Table 12
Approx Number of licences in existence in 2006

Licence type administered by Legal Services	Numbers
Animal Boarding Establishments	3
Bingo (Amusements with Prizes)	2
Dangerous Wild Animals	1
Dog Breeding	1
Game (Dealing in)	1
Gaming Machines	36
Hawkers	2
Hypnotism	0
House to House Collections	19
Lotteries	75
Motor Salvage Operators	3
Pet Shops	6
Performing Animals	1
Riding Establishments	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	4
Sex Shops	0
Street Collections	14
Street Trading	20
Taxi & Private Hire Drivers/ Private Hire Operators	600/21
Taxi (Hackney Carriage) Vehicles Private Hire Vehicles	267/136
Alcohol & Regulated Entertainment Licences: Premises Licences Club Premises Certificates Personal Licences Temporary Event Notices	300 21 455 50

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REPORT: Regulatory Committee
DATE: 18 September 2006
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Taxi licensing matter
WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Alan Scott of 6 Egypt Street Widnes has applied on behalf of members of the Halton T & G for the age restriction on all 7 seater Hackney Carriage vehicles to be lifted.

2. RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee considers lifting the age restriction on all 7 seater vehicles licensed as Hackney Carriages

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Mr Scott lists the following reasons for the request

- 1 All 7 seater vehicles are M 1 registered

Response

M1 registration is issued to a newly produced passenger vehicle which is **constructed** to carry passengers, with no more than eight seats excluding the driver. It does not refer to adapted vehicles. Therefore it does not follow that all 7 seater vehicles are M1 classified.

Nor does it necessarily prove that a vehicle is **purpose** built.

Although currently purpose built status is under scrutiny, the current policy in Halton is that which is defined by the London Carriage Office and only recognises the London style cab as a purpose built taxi.

This definition will of course be open to consideration when an acceptable alternative is lawfully arrived at.

- 2 All the vehicles are wheelchair friendly this will meet with the new government legislation that is being rolled out from 2010

Response

Currently **all licensed** vehicles in Halton are wheelchair friendly, being capable in whatever form of carrying a wheelchair, whether it be folded up in the boot of a car or MPV or carried complete with the passenger in a properly adapted vehicle. Whilst it is true to say that 7 seat

vehicles are wheelchair friendly, it is not true to say that all seven seaters are wheelchair compliant in the fullest sense of the word. Indeed many MPV's are more restricted in access for the disabled than are saloon cars

- 3 Drivers are paying from £19,000 to £30,000 for each vehicle this means that they are laying out a lot of capital only to be told that the investment is only good for 8 years

Response

The cost of the vehicle being used is completely the choice of the driver. When the licensed driver puts a vehicle on the road he is aware of the Conditions set by the Local Authority relating to age restrictions on vehicles. Therefore if the driver lays out capital first without considering the long term implications based on established rules the question must be asked has he put the cart before the horse? And should he not have appealed the condition before making a financial commitment? This is not to say that Conditions may not be reviewed but to use the initial cost of a vehicle as a reason to change a rule brought in by the trade with a strong long term safety element is not a reason for variation.

- 4 The Council test each vehicle, over three years old at least twice a year and can call any vehicle in for a spot check which means any vehicle failing the Council do have the power to withdraw the licence.

Response

The testing procedure applies to all vehicles licensed by the Borough and not just to MPV's. This procedure is based on the premise that all vehicles are maintained in a roadworthy condition AT ALL TIMES – 24 hours a day. This is not an argument for a specific type of vehicle being exempt from a reasonable condition. Indeed, it could be suggested that from a certain age ALL vehicles be subject to a standard 3 tests a year and could be beneficial to public confidence. (Other Authorities in fact do apply this).

- 5 This means that a vehicle over eight years old that is totally road worthy and has constantly passed the Council test fails only because of its age is ludicrous.

Response

Local Authorities have the right to establish conditions as to the age and testing requirements of licensed vehicles providing that they do not fetter their decisions and are prepared to consider applications. (R v Hyndeburn BC 1992 ex Parte Rauf) The applicant has the right to his

opinions which appear to be in conflict with those of the majority of Councils who have established vehicle age regulations.

- 6 Unlike cars that have the same age criteria these vehicles are purpose built for the trade

Response

See point one above

- 7 Cars also do have a limited life expectancy as far as government legislation is concerned in that each authority will eventually have to enforce the wheelchair friendly criteria.

Response

See remarks at paragraph 2. Also the 2010 criteria for DDA compliance no longer apply and has been deferred. It may, subject to redefinition become applicable in approx. 2020 in it's entirety.

- 3.2 Mr Scott will attend the committee meeting in support of the request.

4 **COUNCIL CRITERIA ON AGE LIMITS**

- 4 The Councils criteria on age limits for qualifying vehicles are: -
- Purpose Built Hackney Carriages (Approved by the Public Carriage Office)
No age limit but generally have been manufactured since 1988
 - Saloon, estate, multi purpose and multi seat vehicles
Under 8 years old

- 4.1 An age limit on non-purpose built vehicles was requested by the taxi trade to ensure the image and quality of the vehicles was maintained.

5 **ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER**

- 5.1 The age limits on vehicles were considered by the Council during a review in 2000

6 **OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The options available to the Committee are:
- Request a review of the current policy on age limits of licensed vehicles.
 - Take no action

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

If a review were undertaken this could have implications on the Council's current policy in relation to the age limit of licensed vehicles.

8 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Application Documents	Legal Services	John Tully

REPORT: Regulatory Committee
DATE: 18 September 2006
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Taxi licensing matter
WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Roy Woodward of 35 Church Street Widnes currently holds SSD Licence No 927 and HCV Licence no 248. Mr Woodward has requested an age increase for a vehicle he intends to purchase and use as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.

2. RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee considers whether to allow the age of this particular vehicle to be licensed for 15 years as opposed to the 8 years currently allowed

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Mr Woodward currently has a Skoda Octavia licensed as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.
- 3.2 Mr Woodward has advised the licensing section that he wishes to transfer this licence to a Volkswagen Euro Cab and has requested that the 8 year age limit on non-carriage office vehicles be extended to 15 years.
- 3.3 The reasons Mr Woodward has given for increasing the age limit is that the vehicle has wheelchair capacity and compared with the Hackney Carriage London style cab the Volkswagen is far superior. It is more comfortable and spacious and is built to a very high specification. In addition the cost of the vehicle is £30,600.00
- 3.4 Mr Woodward will attend the committee meeting in support of the application.

.4. COUNCIL CRITERIA ON AGE LIMITS

- 4.1 The Councils criteria on age limits for qualifying vehicles are: -
Purpose Built Hackney Carriages (Approved by the Public Carriage Office)

- No age limit but generally have been manufactured since 1988

Saloon, estate, multi purpose and multi seat vehicles

- Under 8 years old

4.2 An age limit on non-purpose built vehicles was requested by the taxi trade to ensure the image and quality of the vehicles was maintained.

5 ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER

5.1 If this approval were given how would the Council deal with any other request to increase the age limit on vehicles?

6 OPTIONS

6.1 The options available to the Committee are:

- (a) Grant the request
- (b) Grant the age increase but for a lesser period of time
- (c) Refuse the request

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

8 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Application Documents	Legal Services	John Tully