

If you would like any further information or have any special requirements in respect of this Meeting, please contact Lynda Eastwood, Democratic Services Officer on (01507) 613422

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Date: Thursday, 11 April 2024

Dear Councillor,

Licensing Act 2003 Committee

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the **Licensing Act 2003 Committee** to be held at **the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH**, on **Monday, 22nd April, 2024 at the rising of the General Licensing Committee**, for the transaction of the business set out in the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely



Robert Barlow
Chief Executive

Conservative

Councillors Neil Jones (Vice-Chairman), Richard Avison, Stephen Evans, Carl Macey and Terry Taylor

District Independent/Liberal Democrat

Councillor Sandra Campbell-Wardman (Chairman)

Labour

Councillor Graham Cullen

Skegness Urban District Society (SUDS)

Councillor Billy Brookes

East Lindsey Independent Group

Councillors George Horton, Darren Hobson and Andrew Leonard

LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE AGENDA
Monday, 22 April 2024

Item	Subject	Page No.
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	
2.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):	
3.	MINUTES: To confirm the Minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Meeting held on 11 March 2024 and the Minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Sub Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2024.	1 - 6
4.	GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY: Report of the Group Manager Public Protection.	7 - 20

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee held in the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Monday, 11th March, 2024 at the rising of the General Licensing Committee.

PRESENT

Councillor Sandra Campbell-Wardman (Chairman)
Councillor Neil Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Richard Avison, Stephen Evans, George Horton,
Darren Hobson, Andrew Leonard and Carl Macey.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Adrian Twiddy - Principal Licensing Officer
Kim Robertson - Legal Advisor
Lynda Eastwood - Democratic Services Officer
Laura Allen - Democratic Services Officer

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billy Brookes and Terry Taylor.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to disclose any relevant interests. The following interests were disclosed:

- Councillor Carl Macey asked it be noted that he was a personal licence holder.
- Councillor Andrew Leonard asked it be noted that he was a Magistrate.

6. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Meetings held on 29 July 2022 and 18 September 2023 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held at the rising of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 May 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Sub Committee Meetings held on 27 July 2022, 18 August 2022, 12 September 2022, 22 September 2022, 16 March 2023, 24 August 2023, 31 August 2023, 5 January 2024 and 2 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

The Meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Act 2003 Sub Committee held in the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Friday, 5th April, 2024 at 10:30am.

PRESENT

Councillors Stephen Evans, Neil Jones and Terry Taylor.

Councillor Darren Hobson attended the Meeting as a Substitute.

Officers in Attendance:

Adrian Twiddy	- Principal Licensing Officer
David Dodds	- Environmental Health Service Manager- East Lindsey
Martha Rees	- Legal Representative
Lynda Eastwood	- Democratic Services Officer
Laura Allen	- Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance:

Mr Victor Fox	- Director, Europa Fisheries Ltd and The Factory Rock Shop
Mr Ashley Fox	- Review Applicant
Mr Grant Shackleton	- Chattertons Solicitors
Mr Jack Staples	- Chattertons Solicitors
Mr Taj Bola	- Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS), LA Café
Mr Michael Kheng	- Kurnia Licensing Consultants

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Neil Jones was duly nominated and upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Neil Jones be elected Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for this Meeting only.

COUNCILLOR NEIL JONES IN THE CHAIR

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Those present were noted.

7. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the meeting, Members were invited to declare any relevant interests. None were received.

8. REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE:

The Sub-Committee was presented with a report by the Group Manager, Public Protection which enabled Members to consider an application by Mr Victor Fox of Europa Fisheries Limited and The Factory Rock Shop, for a review of the premises licence held in respect of LA Café, 1 Grand Parade, Skegness, PE25 2UN.

Before proceeding with the hearing, the Principal Licensing Officer advised Members that there was the possibility of a request for an adjournment by the applicant and invited both parties to present their case.

Mr Grant Shackleston, Solicitor for the applicant, requested an adjournment and explained the history of the case.

Mr Shackleston further explained that proper testing needed to be carried out on the balcony following the water ingress into the applicant's property. Members were reminded that during the previous adjourned hearing on 2nd February 2024 there was a clear agreement between both parties that the premises licence holder would appoint an expert, to be approved and agreed by the Council, to carry out stress and deflection tests. Mr Shackleston advised that the stress and deflection testing was not carried out and that on 3rd April 2024 they received a report detailing some crude testing from the Environmental Health Service Manager. The report advised that the balcony was safe, however, there was a comment in the report stating 'no reliance can be placed on my findings'. Mr Shackleston commented that the applicant felt that there was still a real risk that the balcony was unsafe.

Mr Shackleston informed Members that proper testing needed to be carried out and if the balcony was then shown as being safe the application would be withdrawn. He commented that there was a need to adjourn the hearing if the licence holder was agreeable to the testing but, if he was not willing to carry out the testing, the applicant would like their expert present at the hearing.

Mr Kheng was invited to present his case.

Mr Kheng commented that his client had agreed to do some deflection testing but after contacting several companies they were told it was pointless as deflection had already occurred. The reason for this was because Mr Bola had put 8 IBC containers on to the balcony filled with water which was estimated to be the weight of 103 people. Currently, 6 of the containers were still on the balcony and full of water. Mr Kheng explained that the water would have to be removed in order for the balcony to go back to its original state and that would take several months. Mr Kheng further explained that a crash pad would need to be placed under the balcony in case it fell, which would result in the businesses being closed for the summer. Mr Kheng commented that if the balcony was not safe it would have collapsed by now.

Mr Kheng advised Members that although they had agreed to carry out the deflection testing, they were unable to find anyone to undertake this

service and that it had since become apparent that none of the attendees at the hearing on 2nd February 2024 understood what deflection testing was.

Mr Kheng referred Members to the report from Gateley Smithers Purslow Limited dated 26th September 2023 where it stated that there had been no major distress on the concrete edge of the balcony, no evidence of any major structural movement and no evidence of major distress.

To insist Mr Bola had another report commissioned was not acceptable as he had tested the weight equivalent of over 100 people on the balcony for 3 months and it hadn't moved.

Mr Kheng informed Members that Mr Bola could open the upstairs of the building as a fish and chip shop, not serving alcohol to remove the requirement for the premises licence and this use by itself could potentially fill the balcony with people. He commented that the application should be dismissed and made it clear that he was against an adjournment. The meeting date had been communicated to all parties and to adjourn would incur costs for his client and the tax payer.

Mr Shackleston responded to Mr Kheng's comments.

Following which, a discussion ensued in relation to the balustrade as Mr Shackleston raised his concerns relating to the fixtures and fittings which he considered looked loose and insecure and stated that proper testing needed to be undertaken. He commented that if testing was not carried out then he would request that his expert be invited to make representations to the Sub-Committee.

Mr Kheng advised Members that the balustrade was incomplete and would be tested once completed.

The Members left the Meeting at 11:02am to discuss the adjournment and returned to the Meeting at 11:24am.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED

That the Application for Review of a Premises Licence for the premises known as LA Café, 1 Grand Parade, Skegness be adjourned to week commencing 13th May 2024 on the basis of the request for an expert witness to attend on behalf of Mr Fox.

The Meeting closed at 11:25 am.

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REPORT TO:	LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE
DATE:	22 APRIL 2024
SUBJECT:	GAMBLING ACT 2005 – REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY
PURPOSE:	To undertake the required statutory three-yearly review of the Council's (Licensing Authority's) Statement of Licensing Principles (Gambling Policy).
REPORT OF:	Group Manager Public Protection.
REPORT AUTHOR:	Mr Adrian Twiddy (Principal Licensing Officer).
EXEMPT REPORT?	The content of this Report is not exempt from publication.

SUMMARY

The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to prepare, consult on and publish a Statement of Licensing Principles (Gambling Policy) that it proposes to apply in exercising its licensing functions under the Act. The 2005 Act requires that the policy is subject to a three yearly review.

This Authority's current policy statement took effect in January 2022 and so the required review process must be completed by the end of 2024 – with the updated policy to come into effect in January 2025. This Report is the start of the policy review process and also sets out the proposed timetable for the review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee consider the Council's Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) and make any relevant amendments to the proposed policy document for 2025 prior to the consultation document being issued for consultation. However, experience since January 2022 has shown that there is nothing of significance that currently needs changing in the policy document and so it is recommended that the forthcoming consultation be issued on that basis.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is under a legal duty to keep its Gambling Policy under review and now is an appropriate time to start the process of reviewing the current policy document. In line with the

statutory requirements this review of the policy must be completed by January 2025. The policy review must take place every 3-years.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There are no other options for consideration – it is a statutory requirement that the Council reviews the policy on a three-yearly basis.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council (the Licensing Authority) to prepare and publish a Statement of the Principles (Gambling Policy) that it proposes to apply in exercising its gambling licensing functions. The statement will last for a maximum of three years - but can be reviewed and revised by the Authority at any time. This Authority's current statement took effect in January 2022 and so the required review process must be completed by the end of 2024 – with the updated policy to come into effect in 04 January 2025.

1.2. A copy of the current policy document can be viewed on the Council's website at:

<https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/5432/Gambling>

2. REPORT

2.1. The Gambling Act 2005 places the responsibility for the licensing of gambling premises and the issuing of gambling permits with Local Authorities. Amongst other matters the 2005 Act deals with the licensing of:

- Casinos.
- Betting shops.
- Bingo halls.
- Amusement arcades.
- Gaming machines.
- Society lotteries.

2.2. The Act requires Licensing Authorities to prepare, consult on and publish a Statement of Licensing Principles (Gambling Policy) that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during the 3-year period to which the policy applies.

2.3. Core to the Gambling Act are the licensing objectives. These 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 manner.

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

It is important to note that there are no other licensing objectives.

2.4. Section 154 of the 2005 Act indicates that adoption of the Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) cannot be delegated to the Licensing Committee. Therefore, full Council must adopt the final policy document. This is different to the granting of premises licences, which the Act automatically delegates to the Licensing Committee. It is proposed that the Council in October 2024 will consider the final version of the proposed policy document. The timetable for the review process is:

22 April 2024

The policy review to be considered by the Licensing Act 2003 Committee.

26 April 2024

The proposed policy to be issued for consultation.

26 July 2024

Closing date for consultation responses.

September 2024

Consultation results to be considered by the Licensing Act 2003 Committee. Any appropriate amendments to be made and the Committee to then recommend the updated Policy to the Council for adoption.

October 2024

Policy to be adopted by the Council.

03 December 2024

Revised / Updated Policy to be published.

04 January 2025

Revised / Updated Policy to take effect.

2.5. Officers have reviewed the existing policy document in light of experience of dealing with the 2005 Act and premises licence applications over the last three years. Experience has shown that there is nothing of significance that currently needs changing in the policy document. With this in mind Officers are not asking the Committee to consider changes to the policy – apart from the small change set out in the Paragraph 2.6 of this Report below.

2.6. The current policy document includes a summary of the number of licences and permits that were in force in September 2021. This section of the policy will need to be updated in order to reflect the current number of licences and permits. The current numbers can be found in **Appendix A** of this Report.

2.7. In 2023 the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) outlined the Government's intention to review the law governing land-based gambling venues. Details of the proposed measures, in relation to gambling premises, are set out in **Appendix B** of this Report. Currently there appears to be nothing in the proposals that would require amendment of this Authority's policy document.

2.8. **Casino Licensing** - The Council's small casino licensing process (competition) is currently on hold. At present we do not have a specific date when the process will resume. This Report does not propose any changes to the policy in relation to the casino licence competition. See **Appendix C** of this Report for further information regarding the current casino licensing situation.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. It is a statutory requirement that the Council reviews the gambling policy on a three-yearly basis, and it is proposed to undertake this forthcoming review in line with the timetable set out above.

3.2. Experience has shown that there is nothing of significance that currently needs changing in the policy document and so it is recommended that the forthcoming consultation be issued on that basis (i.e. the proposal is to make no changes to the policy – apart from updating the section showing the number of licences and permits currently in force).

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

Not Applicable.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

Each Council within the Partnership will need to undergo a similar review of its Statement of Licensing Principles (Gambling Policy).

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The licensing and compliance role of the Council is important in improving the health, safety, security and welfare of the district's residents, visitors, and business community. Effective implementation of an appropriate licensing regime should help to promote the local economy.

STAFFING

None.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The policy document must comply with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005 and the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities. It must also comply with the Code of Practice in relation to casino premises licensing.

DATA PROTECTION

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL

This policy review is being undertaken as part of the normal duties carried out by the Licensing Team with no additional costs involved.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a theoretical risk of civil action against the Licensing Authority if it is found not to have exercised due diligence in licensing matters. There is also the risk of judicial review if the policy is found not to comply with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005 and associated legislation, regulations and guidance.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

None.

REPUTATION

Having a robust licensing scheme protects public safety and commands the confidence of the public.

CONTRACTS

Not Applicable.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Core to the Gambling Act 2005 are the licensing objectives, which are detailed in Paragraph 2.3 of this Report. The licensing objectives will be considered throughout this policy review and in relation to the Authority's Section 17 requirements.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

Equality Implications: There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this Report.

Human Rights: The Licensing Authority must ensure that its decisions and policies can withstand scrutiny by reference to the principle of proportionality, i.e. is the decision / action / policy proportionate to what it wishes to achieve, or, colloquially does the end justify the means.

Safeguarding: The Gambling Act 2005 includes the licensing objective of 'protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling'. This licensing objective will be considered throughout this policy review.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Not Applicable.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

ACRONYMS

DCMS - Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

BACTA - British Amusement Catering Trades Association.

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:	
APPENDIX A	Current number of gambling licensing authorisations in force with this Authority.
APPENDIX B	Summary of the Government's proposed changes to the law governing land-based gambling venues.
APPENDIX C	Summary of this Council's current position regarding the small casino licensing process.

BACKGROUND PAPERS
The Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities: https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT
A Report on this item has not been previously considered by the Licensing Act 2003 Committee.

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Adrian Twiddy (Principal Licensing Officer) Tel. No. 01507 601111 Email: adrian.twiddy@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Donna Hall (Group Manager Public Protection) Tel. No. 01775 761161 Email: donna.hall@sholland.gov.uk

APPENDIX A**East Lindsey District Council****Number of Gambling Authorisations - Current Figures (March 2024)**

Betting Premises Licences	10
Bingo Premises Licences	17
Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) Premises Licences	33
Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) Premises Licences	13
Family Entertainment Centre Permits (uFEC)	74
Alcohol Licensed Premises Providing	
- two or less gaming machines	144
- three or more gaming machines	43
Club Gaming Permits	9
Club Machine Permits	8
Prize Gaming Permits	6
Society Lottery Registrations	120

Number of Occasional Use Notices (OUN) Received During 2023/24 = 1

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APPENDIX B**DCMS - Gambling White Paper – Proposed Land-Based Gambling Reform**

In 2023 the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) outlined the Government's intention to review the law governing land-based gambling venues. The proposed steps outlined included the introduction of cashless payments on gaming machines and ending the current prohibition on the direct use of debit cards on gaming machines. In summary the proposed measures were:

- Casino measures
- Machine allowance in amusement arcades and bingo halls
- Cashless payments on gaming machines
- Introduction of an age limit on 'cash-out' slot-style Category D Gaming Machines
- Licensing Authority licensing fees

The consultation on the above measures closed on 4 October 2023. Following the closure of the consultation, the Government will look to publish a formal response to set out their decision and reasoning before implementing the changes.

Details of the proposed measures, in relation to gambling premises licensed with this Authority, are set out below.

All the proposed measures will require secondary legislation in Parliament, and it was indicated that the implementation for the new measures was being aimed for Summer 2024. However, this timeline will be subject to Parliamentary availability and procedures.

Casino Measures

Land-based casinos operate under two licensing regimes: the Gaming Act 1968, and the Gambling Act 2005. These regimes have different requirements in terms of the venue size and the type and volume of products casinos are able to offer. The proposal is to introduce measures with the intention of addressing the inconsistencies between the different casino licensing regimes, as well as levelling the playing field (to an extent) between land-based and online operators.

The current law states that the gaming machine ratio for a small casino is that for every 2 gaming machines there must also be 1 gaming table available for use. The Government indicated in the White Paper that they are proposing to change this to a ratio of 5:1.

Gaming Machine Allowance in Amusement Arcades and Bingo Halls

Amusement arcades holding an Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) premises licence and bingo premises are licensed to provide Category D, C, B3 and B4 gaming machines.

Licences granted before 13 July 2011 have a slight variation to the standard 80:20 rule, known as legacy rights - otherwise 80% of all gaming machines within AGC and bingo premises must be Category C or D gaming machines.

The stake and prize limits for each machine category are set out below:

Category	Stake	Prize
B3	£2	£500
B4	£2	£400
C	£1	£100
D	10p	£5

The Government have proposed to amend the 80/20 rule and replace it with a 50/50 machine ratio between Category B and Category C and/or D machines. The consultation in 2023 put forward three options:

- Introduce the 50/50 Rule while maintaining current requirements for ‘available for use’.
- Introduce the 50/50 Rule with an additional requirement that any gaming machine device types offered in individual premises (whether cabinets, tablets (fixed or hand-held) or in-fill) comprise a minimum of 50 percent Category C and D machines. Also, Category C and D gaming machine device types made available for use must be of similar size and scale to Category B.
- Remove the 80/20 rule completely, applying no requirements on set gaming machine ratios.

Cashless Payments on Gaming Machines

The Gaming Machine (Circumstances of Use) Regulations 2007 prohibit the use of debit cards for direct payments to gaming machines and prohibit any use of credit cards. This also applies to contactless mobile systems such as Google Pay or Apple Pay on gaming machines.

The Government is proposing to end the current prohibition on the use of debit cards on gaming machines - subject to suitable safeguards being put in place.

There is no intention to lift the prohibition on credit card payments.

Age Limit on Cash-Out Slot-Style Category D Gaming Machines

Category D gaming machines are low-stake fruit machine (cash-out) style machines, coin pushers (sometimes called penny falls) or crane grabs. Category D machines can currently be played by under 18s.

Members of the BACTA trade association took voluntary action to ban under-18s from playing cash-out slot-style machines in 2021. The Government is now looking to make this voluntary approach mandatory.

If the change in law is introduced, it would be an offence for a person to invite, cause, or permit a child or young person to use Cash-Out Category D Gaming Machines (slot-style games). The Government’s Proposal does not require that these machines be moved to an age-restricted area and as such, they can remain where they are positioned. However, the premises will need to be careful to ensure that young people are not permitted to use these machines.

The Government is not currently proposing a ban on children accessing other Category D gaming machines (e.g. crane grabbers, penny pushers, penny fall machines, etc.). The Government is of the view that there is a lack of substantive research or evidence clearly identifying harm to children resulting from the use of these types of machines.

The current rules, governing Category D stakes and prizes, are set out below:

Type	Max Stake	Max Prize	Min Game Cycle	Notes
D	10p	£5	2.5 sec	Money Prize Machines
D	£1	£50	N/A	Crane Grab Machines
D	30p	£8	N/A	Other Non-Money Prize Machines
D	20p	£10	N/A	Coin Pushes or Penny Falls *
D	10p	£5	N/A	Machines Other Than Coin Pushes or Penny Falls **

* £20 of which no more than £10 can be a money prize.

** £8 of which no more than £5 can be a money prize.

Licensing Authority Licensing Fees

The DCMS is proposing to increase the maximum limit for Licensing Authority licensing fees, noting that the maximum amount has not been updated since 2007.

The proposed increase will not provide Local Authorities with an automatic right to increase their licensing fees. Authorities will continue to be required to demonstrate that any increase in fees is necessary to undertake their enforcement and compliance duties.

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APPENDIX C**East Lindsey District Council - Small Casino Premises Licence**

The Gambling Act 2005 introduced three new categories of casino: one regional casino, eight large casinos and eight small casinos. In 2006 East Lindsey District Council submitted a proposal for a small casino to the Casino Advisory Panel.

On 15 May 2008 the Categories of Casino Regulation 2008 and the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 was approved. This specified which Licensing Authorities could issue premises licences for large and small casinos. East Lindsey District Council was authorised to issue a small casino premises licence.

If there is more than one applicant for this Authority's small casino premises licence, then the Council will stage a 'competition' under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005 and will run such a competition in line with The Gambling (Inviting Competing Applications for Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Regulations 2008 and Code of Practice and DCMS Code of Practice.

The Council's Gambling Licensing Policy sets out in detail how the small casino premises licence competition will be determined. However, the Council's small casino licensing process is currently on hold – this is in part due to a perceived lack of interest from the gambling industry in bidding for the East Lindsey licence.

It is currently this Authority's view that the lack of interest by the gambling industry regarding a small casino in East Lindsey is mainly around the perceived lack of viability for a casino on the coastal strip due to the current law governing the number of gaming machines which may be provided in a small casino.

The current law states that the gaming machine ratio for a small casino is that for every 2 gaming machines there must also be 1 gaming table available for use. The Government in their recent White Paper are proposing to change this to a ratio of 5:1. If this change in the law goes ahead in 2024, this Authority feels it may make the East Lindsey casino licence more attractive to the gambling industry.

The 2023 White Paper indicated a Government policy intention to reallocate unused 2005 Act casino licences. This would include the currently unused East Lindsey small casino licence.

In light of the above, this Authority has advised the DCMS that it would prefer to retain the current permission to issue a casino licence. This Authority has advised the DCMS of its view that the Government's proposed changes in the Gambling Act 2005 licensing regime may make the East Lindsey casino licence more attractive to the gambling industry. The DCMS has been advised that this stance has been endorsed by both the Portfolio Holder for Licensing and the Portfolio Holder for the Coastal Economy.

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