

## MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>TO:</b> Licensing & Regulatory Committee	<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b> <b>MLR/21/4</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Cllr Jessica Fleming – Cabinet Member for Environment	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 16 August 2021
<b>OFFICER:</b> Cassandra Clements – Assistant Director Environment & Commercial	<b>KEY DECISION REF NO.</b> N/A

### GAMBLING ACT 2005: ‘NO CASINO’ RESOLUTION

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask that Licensing & Regulatory Committee note the evidence base research contained within this report in regard to a ‘No Casino’ resolution under section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 (“The Act”); and
- 1.2 To ask that Licensing & Regulatory Committee make a recommendation to Council for a decision to be taken by Council on whether to adopt a ‘No Casino’ resolution.

#### 2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 All options to be considered are contained within the recommendations below.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- 3.1 That the Licensing & Regulatory Committee in considering the evidence base, make a recommendation to Council on whether to adopt a ‘No Casino’ resolution; and
- 3.2 That if the Council resolves not to adopt a ‘No Casino’ resolution, this matter will not be debated again unless the allocation under the Gambling Act 2005 is increased by the Secretary of State.

#### REASON FOR DECISION

On 19 December 2018 Licensing and Regulatory Committee brought before Full Council the recommendation to resolve whether to adopt a “No Casino” resolution.

This report was referred back to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the provision of an evidence base regarding the resolution in order for the Council to make a final determination.

#### 4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The decision to pass such a resolution may only be taken by the Council and cannot be delegated to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

- 4.2 The Gambling Act 2005 ('the Act') became effective in September 2007. Contained within the provisions of the Act, under section 174, there are three new types of casino; small, large and regional (the super casino) which is in addition to the numbers of casinos from the previous legislation. The Act under section 175 has set a limit of the numbers of these types of new casino; 8 Small, 8 Large and 1 Regional. This provision was available to all of England and Wales.
- 4.3 In 2006, 68 Local Authorities submitted bids for the allocation of the new types of casino under the Act (Mid Suffolk did not bid to have a casino within its district). 16 Local Authorities were granted the allocation of small and large types of casino in 2007, however the Regional (super casino) fell by the wayside and is unlikely to be resurrected having been initially awarded to Manchester City Council. The information on this is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 Under section 349 of the Act, a Local Authority is required to review and republish its statement every 3 years. The latest review requires the revised document to be adopted and published on or by 3 January 2022 to take effect from 31 January 2022. The 'Statement of Principles' will be applied alongside the legislation and guidance published by the Gambling Commission (which may be revised from time to time).
- 4.5 The decision to adopt the 'Statement of Principles' may only be taken by the Council and cannot be delegated to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

#### **EVIDENCE FOR COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER**

- 4.6 The Council has previously held three such votes on a 'No Casino' resolution, the last vote being taken in 2018, this was held prior to the consultation of the Gambling Act 2005 'Statement of Principles' of that year. Neither vote resulted in a 'No Casino' resolution being passed.
- 4.7 The original concern regarding casinos stemmed from a Planning Application for Snowoasis which included plans to have a casino as part of the proposed activities on the site. This application has since been withdrawn and the new proposed development in this area, Valley Ridge, has removed all reference to the provision of a casino. The information on this development is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 4.8 Mid Suffolk District Council Licensing Authority have received no applications for a casino from when the 2005 Act came into force to present day.
- 4.9 Research identified that none of the surrounding District and Borough Councils that border Mid Suffolk District Council have adopted a 'No Casino' resolution.
- 4.10 If a 'No Casino' resolution is not adopted at this time this does not prevent the Council from choosing to adopt such a resolution in the future should the need arise.
- 4.11 The allocations granted in 2006 means that there is no possible provision for a new casino.
- 4.12 Further, as the full allocation for casinos under the Act has been granted, it would need a suitable economic climate and the political will of Government for the Secretary of State to lay legislation for a further allocation of casinos. A further allocation is highly unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future.

4.13 There would also be a requirement for Mid Suffolk to bid on such an allocation if another provision of casinos were ever to become available. A further allocation is highly unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future and Central Government are currently tightening restrictions with regard to Gambling.

## 5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 The Council in its Corporate plan states that we are looking to support local businesses, jobs, and economic resilience, a ‘No Casino’ resolution would incur opportunity risks of:

- Missed Opportunity for income to the Council as set out in the financial implications below.
- Missed opportunity for increased employment opportunities within the District.
- Missed opportunity to bring further tourism and revenue into the District.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 If the Council were to adopt a ‘No Casino’ resolution, that would prevent casino premises from being established within the district and would prevent the Council from obtaining any license fees in respect of these.

6.2 The initial application fee for a small casino is £8,000, and thereafter £5,000 a year. The initial application fee for a large casino is £10,000, and thereafter £10,000 a year.

6.3 The Licensing service has to be self-financing, and non-profit making. Therefore, any increase in fee income would have to be offset against administration costs, which could include inspection and enforcement.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

7.2 The legislation is clear in that only the Council can determine a resolution under s166. All members of Council including members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee can contribute to any debate relating to this matter.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council’s Significant Business Risk No. 14 - Councils may be perceived to be untrustworthy and have a poor reputation. If the Council decide not to adopt a ‘No Casino’ resolution and a future casino application is granted the further Key risks may arise:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Casinos do not revive local economies	2 - Unlikely	2 – Noticeable	Reviewed, revised and reconsulted every three years in line with the Statement of Principles

A casino could have an adverse impact on local property	2- Unlikely	2 - Noticeable	Reviewed, revised and reconsulted every three years in line with the Statement of Principles
Gambling has a negative perception and can have an adverse effect on individuals who become addicted, who lack social interaction, those who overspend and there is a potential for money laundering	2- Unlikely	2-Noticeable	Reviewed, revised and reconsulted every three years in line with the Statement of Principles

## 9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 No consultations have taken place, however, should a 'No Casino' resolution be passed then the Council's 'Statement of Principles' will be consulted upon during the statutory three yearly revision this year.

## 10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 10.1 There are no links to any significant risks arising directly from this report.

## 11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct Environmental Implications arising from this report.

## 12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Gambling Act 2005 Overall Limits and Map of Casino Locations	Attached
(b) Valley Ridge Proposal	Attached

## 13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Gambling Act 2005

The Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities 2021 Edition

[Mid Suffolk District Council: Statement of Principles](#)

[Licensing & Regulatory Committee Meeting & Minutes - 7 December 2018](#)

[Mid Suffolk Council Agenda & Minutes - 19 December 2018](#)