

CABINET

Tuesday, 27th July, 2021

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 46

The following action taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 46 is reported. In consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member(s):-

1. The Executive Director (Finance and Resources) authorised:

1.1 Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Application for Funding

The endorsement of the work done by the CRF Assessment Panel and the approval, as lead authority, of the submission of the bid to Government. This is grant fund for pilot projects which test ways to help people gain new skills, move into employment, and/or support the renewal of community. Southend has been identified as one of 100 priority places across the UK.

2. The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) authorised:

2.1 Permission to commence public consultation on the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy for Gambling

Approval to commence public consultation on the Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy for Gambling which must be in place by the end of 2021. Unfortunately, due to the extra work required as part of the Council's response to the Covid pandemic this year the timescales for completing the draft policy have been considerably reduced and it has not been possible to submit the draft policy to Cabinet in time to enable consultation to be approved.

The changes to the policy are very minor and are either cosmetic or reflect changes in the gambling environment, such as the impact of the reduction of maximum bets on B2 machines (also known as fixed odds betting terminals.) The Licensing Team carried out a complete overhaul of the policy in 2017 and it has not been significantly tested or challenged since. The Gambling Commission have not changed their guidance to local authorities since the last review of our policy, and there is therefore nothing new to reflect from their point of view.

The final policy will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.