
Minutes of a meeting of the Council – to deliberate on submissions to the Gambling Policy Review

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic House, Trafalgar Street, Nelson

On Thursday 8 August 2013, commencing at 2.05pm

Present: His Worship the Mayor (A Miccio), Councillors I Barker, A Boswijk (Deputy Mayor), G Collingwood, E Davy, K Fulton, J Rackley, R Reese, D Shaw, and M Ward

In Attendance: Chief Executive (C Hadley), Manager Policy and Planning (N McDonald), Principal Adviser Community (J Hawes), Manager Administration (P Langley), Manager Community Relations (A Ricker), Executive Manager Regulatory (R Johnson), and Administration Adviser (L Canton)

Apologies: Councillors R Copeland, P Matheson, and P Rainey

1. Apologies

Resolved

THAT apologies be received and accepted from Councillors Copeland, Matheson and Rainey.

His Worship the Mayor/Boswijk

Carried

2. Interests

Manager Policy and Planning, Nicky McDonald, and Principal Adviser Community, Jenny Hawes, joined the meeting.

It was noted that various Councillors were involved with Trusts that received funds from gambling trusts. In response to a question, Ms McDonald explained advice received from Council's Senior Legal Adviser on potential conflicts of interest. She said his advice was that being on a Trust that might in the future, or had in the past received funds from a gambling trust was not necessarily a conflict of interest, so long as any benefit to the Councillor was not more than that to the average person in the community benefitting from such funds.

The Chief Executive added that, if a Councillor's source of income was derived from an application made to a gambling trust, then they had a pecuniary interest that constituted an interest.

It was noted that a submitter had raised concerns about His Worship the Mayor's position as landlord to a gaming machine venue. His Worship the Mayor advised that he had sold the building in question in February 2013.

Attendance: Councillor Rackley declared an interest and left the meeting at 1.10pm.

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 23 July 2013

Document number 1560494, agenda pages 4-8 refer.

Resolved

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Nelson City Council – to hear submissions to the Gambling Policy Review, held on 23 July 2013, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Davy/Boswijk

Carried

4. Submissions to the Gambling Policy Review 2012/13

Document number 1550733, agenda pages 9-34 refer.

Principal Adviser Community, Jenny Hawes, summarised the proposal and noted that it considered three key changes to the current policy.

4.1 'Sinking Lid' Policy

Councillors acknowledged that submissions ranged from support for a 'sinking lid' and support for retaining a cap on the number of gaming machines (pokies) in Nelson. They emphasised the effect of gambling harms in the community but also noted that a heavy reliance on funding from gambling trusts for community organisations meant that a sinking lid would result in less funding going into communities. It was also noted that a reduction in gaming machines may also have economic and social impacts on the hospitality industry and its employees.

The meeting discussed the possibility of retaining a cap, but reducing it from 285 to 257, which was the current number of gaming machines operating in the area. It was noted that the current cap was not being met, and that this indicated a lack of demand.

There was general agreement that, after considering submissions and the impacts on the community, Councillors believed a reduced cap was a responsible approach in the best interests of the community, and in line with Council's objective to promote harm minimisation for gambling activities.

Resolved

THAT Council retains the existing policy of a cap on the total number of gaming machines (pokies) in operation in the city;

AND THAT Council reduces the cap from 285 to 257, noting that 257 is the number of machines that are currently operating in Nelson.

Davy/Collingwood

Carried

4.2 Merged Club Venues

Councillors discussed whether it was necessary to reduce the maximum number of gaming machines permitted in merged Club venues.

Resolved

THAT Council retains the existing policy of a maximum allowable number of 30 gaming machines per merged club venue.

His Worship the Mayor/Barker

Carried

4.3 Separation of Class 4 venue and TAB venue policies

Councillors discussed whether to have separate policies for class 4 gambling (pokie) venues and New Zealand Racing Board (TAB) venues. It was noted that some submissions did not object to separate policies, but a view was expressed that a split policy would only be relevant to TAB venues, and that there were currently none in Nelson.

Resolved

THAT Council retains the existing combined policy for Class 4 gambling (pokie) venues and New Zealand Racing Board (TAB) venues.

His Worship the Mayor/Boswijk

Carried

The meeting briefly discussed the proposed policy's restrictions on location of class 4 venues in relation to automatic teller machines (ATMs). It was noted that this made it more difficult to establish venues for gambling machines.

Resolved

THAT the report Submissions on the Gambling Policy Review 2012/13 (1550733) and its attachments (1326758, 1550341 and 1561953) be received;

AND THAT the Council consider and deliberate on all submissions received on the Statement of Proposal – Gambling Policy Review;

AND THAT the Council make decisions and give reasons for those decisions on all submissions received on the Statement of Proposal – Gambling Policy Review;

AND THAT the Gambling Policy be amended to reflect the Council's decisions on submissions made at this meeting, and be reported back to Council for adoption.

His Worship the Mayor/Boswijk

Carried

There being no further business the meeting ended at 2.55pm.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings:

_____ Chairperson _____ Date