

Key information about re-adopting a 'No Casino' resolution

1. The Gambling Act 2005 contains provisions under section 174 for three types of casino small, large and regional (the super casino). The Act under section 175 has a set limit of the numbers of these types of casino, 8 Small, 8 Large and 1 Regional.
2. In 2006, 68 Local Authorities submitted bids for the allocation of new types of casino under the Act (Hammersmith and Fulham Council did not bid to have a casino). 16 Local Authorities were granted the allocation of Small and Large types of casino in 2007.
3. As the allocation for casinos under the Act has already been taken up, it would need the right economic climate and the political will of Government for the Secretary of State to lay legislation for a further allocation of casinos (It would also require Hammersmith and Fulham Council to bid on such an allocation if another round of casinos were ever made). A further allocation is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future.
4. Under section 166 of the Act a Licensing Authority ('the Council') may resolve not to issue casino premises licences (a 'No Casino' resolution). Hammersmith and Fulham Council has continued to adopt and re-adopt a 'No Casino' resolution.
5. If the Council decide to re-adopt a 'No Casino' resolution, it must be based on any principle or matter not just the licensing objectives under the Act, affecting the borough.
6. The decision to pass such a resolution may only be taken by Full Council and cannot be delegated to the Licensing Committee.
7. Where a 'No Casino' resolution is passed it must apply to the borough and cannot be limited to specific geographic areas or categories of casinos and the Council must specify the date that it should take effect.
8. A resolution once passed, is in effect for a period of three years from the date it takes effect.
9. After the resolution has been in effect for three years should the Council wish to keep the resolution, the Council would need to readopt it, otherwise it will lapse.
10. Where an authority passes a resolution not to issue casino premises licences, it can revoke the resolution by passing a counter-resolution, which again must be done by Full Council and cannot be delegated to the Licensing Committee.
11. Once a resolution has been adopted it must be placed within the Council's 'Statement of Gambling Policy'.
12. Casinos may have the potential to attract new businesses, more visitors and revenue, more employment opportunities in the borough and additional licensing income. However, this must be balanced with any public health implications and the needs of residents, the local community and the borough, as a whole.