



Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee
30 July 2024

GAMBLING ACT 2005

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING ACT POLICY REVIEW)

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Portfolio: Environment

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the draft revisions to the statement of principles in advance of the consultation process.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider the revisions to the statement of principles and advise on any changes they wish to make.
- Agree the draft statement of principles ready for commencement of the consultation.

1. Summary

1.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires each Authority to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the following three licensing objectives:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and disorder, or being used to support crime in any way.
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

1.2 To achieve these objectives, the Authority is required to publish a statement of principles every three years and set out the policies the Authority will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act.

2. Background

2.1 The statement of principles has previously been produced in conjunction with the six other licensing authorities in Norfolk.

2.2 On this occasion the statement of principles has been amended to include upcoming guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and to provide clarity on how this Authority expects gambling operators to engage with vulnerable and/or underage persons.

3. Current position/findings

3.1 The draft statement of principles will be consulted on with the Authority's current licence holders, statutory consultees and interested parties.

3.2 The draft statement of principles will also be reviewed by our legal advisor.

3.3 The review is required by legislation and very few changes are being proposed to the current statement of principles. It is therefore not anticipated that the Authority will receive a significant number of responses to this consultation exercise.

4. Proposed action

4.1 Agree the draft policy statement ready for commencement of the consultation which is proposed to run from the 14th August – 25th September 2024.

5. Issues and risks

- 5.1 **Resource Implications** – there are no specific resource implications in respect of the Policy Statement, in addition to those resources already identified and accounted for within the Licensing Team.
- 5.2 **Legal Implications** – the Gambling Act 2005 requires the Authority to review its Policy Statement, to consult in respect of the policy and to have considered and formally adopted, published and advertised the policy for implementation from 31 January 2025.
- 5.3 **Equality Implications** – it is not anticipated that there will be a specific equality impact as a result of this policy review. However, an Equalities and Communities Impact Assessment has been completed alongside this report.
- 5.4 **Environmental Impact** – it is not anticipated that there will be a specific environmental impact as a result of this policy review.
- 5.5 **Crime and Disorder** – the licensing objective of, “Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and disorder, or being used to support crime in any way” must be upheld.
- 5.6 **Risks** – In making its determination, failure to take into consideration the relevant legislation, guidance and the Council’s Licensing Policy may leave the Committee’s decision open to challenge.

6. Recommendations:

- 6.1 The Committee is recommended to:
- Consider the revisions to the statement of principles and advise on any changes they wish to make.
 - Agree the draft statement of principles ready for commencement of the consultation.