

GAMBLING ACT 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy Review

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council, as the Licensing Authority, to review its statement of gambling licensing policy every 3 years. This is the first review since the implementation of the Act in 2007. The Council will need to approve and adopt the revised policy which will be effective from 2010 to 2013.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

- The committee note and comment on the proposed changes made to the policy.

INFORMATION

In April 2009, a working party was convened to carry out the first review of the Council's Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy. The working party was made up of the following officers:

- Norman Stanley, Licensing Service Manager
- Stephanie Waterford, Licensing Officer
- Sue Pollitt, Deputy Consumer Protection Manager
- Beejal Soni, Licensing Lawyer
- Natasha Dogra, Democratic Services
- Sgt Ian Meens, Police Licensing Sergeant
- Paul Hewitt, Local Safeguarding Children Board

The working party agreed that the current gambling licensing policy has worked well since it's implementation in 2007 and has not been subject to any challenge. It was therefore agreed by the working party not to change the content or format to any great degree, however some minor changes were proposed and full consultation began on 17th July 2009.

Consultees included:

- Elected Members
- Gambling trade representatives
- Responsible Authorities
- Neighbouring local authorities

- Local residents associations and local community groups
- Licensing Solicitors
- Licensed premises

Consultation closed on 28th August 2009 with a total of 5 responses (attached).

The working party was re-convened on 10th September 2009 to discuss the responses and the policy was amended accordingly.

Approval process and time-line

- Draft policy needs to be approved by the full licensing committee
- Draft policy to RESPOC for scrutiny 17/11/09
- Draft policy to Cabinet for approval 17/12/09
- Draft policy to full Council 14/01/10
- Policy comes into force until 2013

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Gambling Act 2005

Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities