

## STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY CONSULTATION

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Cllr Douglas Mills
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Community, Commerce & Regeneration
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Stephanie Waterford Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	<b>Appendix A</b> - Overview of proposed policy changes <b>Appendix B</b> - Draft 2019 Gambling Policy

### HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	<p>This report seeks Cabinet approval to undertake a six week public consultation on the updated draft of Statement of Gambling Policy (policy framework).</p> <p>This Policy is deemed as 'Policy Framework' under the Council's constitution and so requires approval by full Council.</p>
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	<p>This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People; Our Built Environment; Our Heritage and Civic Pride.</i></p>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	<p>The resources required for the consultation can be met from existing budgets.</p>
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents, Education & Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Ward(s)</b>	All

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That Cabinet:

- 1) **Agree to a public consultation for the draft Statement of Gambling Policy;**
- 2) **Note that a further report will be submitted to Cabinet, post consultation, highlighting any consultation responses for Cabinet to consider for inclusion in the final policies;**
- 3) **Note that, subject to later Cabinet endorsement, the final Statement of Gambling Policy will be referred to full Council for adoption.**

### Reasons for recommendation

The review of the Statement of Gambling Policy and the accompanying consultation support effective and efficient delivery of licensing functions, in accordance with legislation and the Council's objectives, and allow for stakeholder views to be taken into account.

### Alternative options considered / risk management

None - There is a requirement under the Gambling Act 2005 to review the policy every 3 years.

### Democratic compliance / previous authority

The proposed Statement of Gambling policy is a policy framework document under the Council's Constitution. As such, Cabinet is required to approve them in draft form with a timetable to include a period of formal consultation (minimum 6 weeks), to include the relevant Policy Overview Committee. Cabinet will then consider the responses of the consultation before deciding whether or not to recommend them to full Council for adoption.

### Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage, comments will be sought during the consultation process.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Council is required to review its licensing policies at regular intervals to ensure that it is carrying out licensing functions in accordance with current legislation. During this review, consideration has been given to how changes might improve the way in which services are being delivered, to make them more efficient and customer friendly.

A draft policy has been produced which now needs to be consulted upon, prior to final consideration by Cabinet or adoption by full Council.

The Gambling Act 2005 regulates gambling activity such as betting shops, bingo halls and gaming machines. There has been little change to gambling legislation since 2016 and so very few changes are proposed to the policy. Should substantial changes to legislation occur, the Council may review the Gambling Policy at any time.

Relevant appendices are:

- An overview document detailing the proposed changes is attached at **appendix A**.
- The draft policy, attached at **appendix B**

**The proposed timetable for policy implementation is set out below:**

20 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Draft Policies to Cabinet.
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Consultation period starts
11 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Licensing Committee
18 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Residents Education & Environmental Services POC
8 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Consultation period ends
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Final policy to Cabinet post-consultation
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	Statement of Gambling Policy considered at Full Council.

## Financial Implications

The consultation on the draft policies has no direct financial implications. The resourcing of the consultation process can be met from existing budgets. The Council's licensing function is able to recover service provision costs through Fees and Charges, however, the rates of Gambling Licences are defined by statute.

## RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

### The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The recommendations will give residents and businesses the opportunity to provide feedback to the Council on the proposed policies through the consultation process.

## **Consultation carried out or required**

This report requests Cabinet approval for a public consultation on the policies. Following approval by Cabinet, the policies may be considered by the Licensing Committee, sub-committees of which make licensing decisions with reference to the policies.

The Residents, Education & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee will have the opportunity to submit comments on the policy prior to resubmission to Cabinet for consideration of responses received.

The draft policy will be sent to statutory consultees, Members of the Authority and any person on request. The draft policy will also be displayed on the Council's website.

## **CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **Legal**

The Borough Solicitor confirms that the consultation process outlined in the report complies with the requirements of section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005. Further legal advice will be given as necessary when the outcome of the consultation is reported to Cabinet.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL