

GAMBLING POLICY STATEMENT CONSULTATION

Committee name	Residents, Education & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Stephanie Waterford, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A - Overview of proposed policy changes Appendix B - Draft 2019 Gambling Policy
Ward	All

HEADLINES

This report is to consult with and invite scrutiny from the Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee on the updated draft Statement of Gambling Policy (policy framework).

This Policy is deemed as 'Policy Framework' under the Council's constitution and so requires full approval by full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee considers the revisions to the Statement of Gambling Policy and offers comments to be considered by Cabinet at the end of the consultation period.

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

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

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.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

The regular review and adoption of the Statement of Gambling Policy ensures that the gambling licensing framework are up to date and effective in ensuring a safe and regulated environment for service users of gambling establishments. It will also ensure that there are methods for robust enforcement and review of problem gambling premises.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

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.