

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

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| Cabinet Member(s) | Councillor Eddie Lavery |
| Cabinet Portfolio(s) | Residents' Services |
| Officer Contact(s) | Daniel Ferrer, Place Directorate |
| Papers with report | Appendix 1 – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy |

HEADLINE INFORMATION

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| Summary | <p>The Council's Statement of Gambling policy has been reviewed in accordance with legislative requirements and the Council's objectives.</p> <p>This report seeks a recommendation to be made to full Council for the adoption of the updated Statement of Gambling Policy which is a Policy Framework document.</p> |
| Putting our Residents First Delivery of the Council Strategy 2022-26 | <p>This report supports our ambition for residents of 'Be/feel safe from harm.'</p> <p>The report supports our commitment to residents of 'Safe & Strong Communities'</p> |
| Financial Cost | <p>There are no additional costs to the Council in respect of approving the Statement of Gambling Policy.</p> |
| Relevant Select Committee | Residents' Services Select Committee |
| Relevant Ward(s) | All |

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet, following consultation, recommends to Full Council the adoption of the updated Statement of Gambling Policy.

Reasons for recommendation

To ensure the Council has an up-to-date Gambling Policy, which has been subject to public consultation and views sought from relevant stakeholders.

The revised Statement of Gambling Policy has been drafted to include updates in legislation and reflect current working practices. This will provide residents and service users with up to date and fit for purpose policy document.

Alternative options considered / risk management

To not make a recommendation for adoption of the Statement of Gambling Policy would mean the Council would not be able to meet its statutory obligations and legal challenges may follow.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Council is required to review its Statement of Gambling Policy at regular intervals to ensure 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 and deliver upon the 4 Licensing Objectives.

Cabinet in September 2022 agreed to consult on an updated version. The formal consultation period commenced on 12th September 2022 and ended on 24th October 2022 which included responsible authorities, other stakeholders, the Licensing Committee and Select Committee.

There have been no significant responses during the consultation period which have resulted in any changes being made to the draft Policy.

The Statement of Gambling Policy is a Policy Framework document and, therefore, under the law and the Council's Constitution, it requires final approval by full Council.

The proposed Policy being recommended for approval is attached in Appendix 1.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The public consultation was carried out between 12 September 2022 to 24 October 2022. The consultees included statutory consultees, partner authorities and agencies, residents and businesses. The consultation was also featured on the Council's website. There were no comments received from the public consultation.

Comments from the Licensing Committee

The Licensing Committee met on 4 October 2022 and noted that the updates were not major or significant changes to the Policy. Members raised comments regarding the references used in the Equality Impact Assessment that was carried out. The Committee also asked if figures could be requested from the trade sector in relation to self-exclusion records kept at gambling premises within the Borough and the Licensing Team are still awaiting this information. Members supported the inclusion of new sections in the Policy that had been added, including, 'Modern Day Slavery.' No material concerns were raised by the Licensing Committee.

Select Committee comments

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Policy was also considered by the Residents' Services Select Committee on 19 October 2022. Members were pleased to see that equality and human rights had been included in the new policy and felt it was a good piece of work. It was confirmed that the Chairman of the Licensing Committee had requested further data in relation to age verification and self-exclusion. No further concerns were raised by the Select Committee Members

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Legal

Legal services confirm that there are no legal impediments to the Council adopting this Gambling Policy which is in accordance with the outcome of the consultation carried out pursuant to section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [Current Statement of Gambling Policy](#)
- [Gambling Commission - Guidance to Licensing Authorities last updated May 2021](#)
- [Gambling Commission – Licence Conditions & Codes of Practice last updated Oct 2020](#)
- [Policy Paper – Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Terms of Reference and Call for Evidence, published December 2020](#)
- [Gambling Act 2005](#)