

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY CONSULTATION

Committee name	Licensing Committee
Officer reporting	Daniel Ferrer, Licensing Manager
Papers with report	The Cabinet Report and an overview document detailing the proposed changes is attached at - Appendix A Draft Statement of Gambling Policy - Appendix B Equality Impact Assessment - Appendix C
Ward	All

HEADLINES

This report is to consult with and invite comments from the Committee on the updated draft Statement of Gambling Policy.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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 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.

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 sets out how gambling in Great Britain is regulated. It came fully into force in September 2007, and covers arcades, betting shops, bingo premises, casinos, gaming machines, society lotteries, and remote gambling (including online gambling). It also created and set the functions and objectives of the Gambling Commission as the principal regulator. The Council is required to review the Statement of Gambling Policy every three years. The current policy was last formally reviewed in 2022 and therefore requires updating and adopting.

In the intervening time there have been only minor changes to legislation and guidance and as such there are very few changes proposed to this policy. This has been incorporated into the revised policy.

The proposed timetable for policy implementation is set out below:

12 th September 2024	Draft Policy to Cabinet.
13 th September 2024	Consultation period starts
24 th September 2024	Residents' Services Select Committee
9 th October 2024	Licensing Committee
25 th October 2024	Consultation period ends
12 th December 2024	Final policy to Cabinet post-consultation
16 th January 2025	Statement of Gambling Policy considered and adopted at Full Council, subject to Cabinet recommendation

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Committee 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 Licensing Committee and the Residents' Services Select Committee. Cabinet will then consider the responses of the consultation before deciding whether or not to recommend them to full Council for adoption.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important that the Committee considers cost effective proposals that benefit resident taxpayers in relation to this review, which would ultimately be determined by Cabinet as part of the Council's broader budget planning process.

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising at the current time. Further, more detailed legal advice will be given as necessary once the outcome of the consultation is known.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Current Statement of Gambling Policy
<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/gambling>

Gambling Commission - Guidance to Licensing Authorities last updated May 2021
<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities>

Gambling Commission – Licence Conditions & Codes of Practice last updated Oct 2020
<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/lccp>

Summer 2023 Consultation – proposed changes to LCCP and RTS:
<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/consultation-response/summer-2023-consultation-proposed-changes-to-lccp-and-rts-consultation>

High Stakes: Gambling Reform for the Digital Age, April 2023
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-stakes-gambling-reform-for-the-digital-age>

APPENDICES

- The Cabinet Report and an overview document detailing the proposed changes is attached at **Appendix A**.
- The draft Statement of Gambling Policy attached at **Appendix B**
- Equality Impact Assessment at **Appendix C**