

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

11th June 2012

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES - REVIEW

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To update Members of the required consultation on the Statement of Gambling Principles as part of the statutory triennial review in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

To note that a consultation on the Statement of Gambling Principles is forthcoming and findings will be reported back to the Licensing Committee prior to its implementation in January 2013.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications within this report other than statutory consultation with licence holders and other interested parties.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during the three year period to which the policy applies.
- 3.3 The Council has delegated its gambling function to its Licensing Committee, Sub Committees and Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing Officers referred collectively to as the "Licensing Authority".
- 3.4 The statement of Policy will last for a maximum of three years but can be reviewed and revised by the authority at any time.

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- 3.5 This statement re-establishes the important link with the Council's vision and objectives and with the desire to deliver services in an open, transparent and consistent manner

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The Gambling Act requires the Council to carry out a review of its Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Gambling Principles which is used to determine all applications made under the terms of the Act, every three years.
- 3.7 The Council adopted its current Statement of Principles in January 2010. It is now necessary to carry out a review of the current document and to consult with all interested parties, to ensure that the policy continues to reflect the local balance between the commercial interests of the licensed trade and the communities they serve and impact on.
- 3.8 The current Statement of Gambling Principles is set out at Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The Gambling Commission are currently updating the Gambling Act 2005 Guidance and no changes are proposed to the guidance on the Statement of Gambling Principles.
- 3.8 The Licensing Authority is satisfied that its existing Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles has been “fit for purpose” as it has not been challenged by applicants or objectors. Members should note that this view is mirrored by all other Licensing Authorities within Worcestershire.
- 3.9 Consultation will take place with all of the interested parties identified in the Guidance; these being any Parish and Town Councils, Relevant Authorities, Trade Associations and Representatives of the Gaming Industry, including suppliers of gaming facilities and machines, all betting offices within the district and a number of voluntary Organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Gamblers Anonymous.
- 3.9 Consultation is required over a 12 week period; once the consultation has closed, results will be collated and evaluated in conjunction with the other district Council's in the County and incorporated, where necessary into the Statement and will enable a further report to be made to this Committee prior to the implementation date for consideration.

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4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Failure to consult on the Statement of Gambling Principles will result in the Council failing to exercise its duty under the requirement of the Gambling Act 2005.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Statement of Gambling Principles.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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