

**AGENDA NO**

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**23 NOVEMBER 2021**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATIC AND  
ELECTORAL SERVICES**

**REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR GAMBLING PREMISES IN  
STOCKTON**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is for the Licensing Committee to consider the revised Gambling Statement of Principles following the public consultation on the draft Gambling Statement of Principles.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Members give consideration to the proposed revised Gambling Statement of Principles.
2. Members agree to the proposed changes to the draft for consideration by Cabinet on 20 January 2022 and Council on 26 January 2022.

**DETAIL**

1. Gambling has changed in recent years, traditional methods such as betting shops are being replaced with online gambling. The Gambling Commission regulate online gambling.
2. The Local Authority have a role to play in minimizing the harmful effects of gambling and produce a Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles, commonly known as the Gambling Policy. This policy is reviewed every 3 years.
3. As well as the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Commission Guidance for Local Authorities details how the local authority should exercise its functions when licensing premises for gambling. More information can be found at: [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities)
4. There are few changes to the draft Gambling Policy as there have been no legislative changes in the last three years. Any changes or additional information is indicated in red, and a copy of the draft policy document can be found at: [www.stockton.gov.uk/our-people/licensing/current-applications-and-consultations/](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-people/licensing/current-applications-and-consultations/)
5. The draft Gambling Policy was published for a four-week public consultation. The consultation included stakeholders such as the Gambling Commission, trade

associations, licensees, children's services, local residents' groups, responsible authorities including police and public health, and all members.

6. The consultation was also published on the website and a notice was placed on the notice board of all public libraries. No further comments on the draft policy document were received.
7. Members will be aware that the current Statement of Principles was adopted in January 2019 and Licensing Authorities are required to review the policy every three years when exercising their functions under the Gambling Act 2005.
8. The current review will conclude with the revised Policy coming into effect on the 31 January 2022 following consideration by Cabinet and Council.

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The cost of licensing gambling premises and issuing gaming permits and lottery registrations will be met from the fees paid by applicants. The fee structure, in terms of the application / renewal fees to be charged, will be determined with a view to full cost recovery.

**Environmental Implications:**

None

**Legal Implications:**

The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Licensing Authority to prepare a statement of principles every three years. The Council's current Policy statement was in effect from 31 January 2019 and is now due for review. The adoption of the Policy will assist members and officers when considering applications and businesses intending to submit applications. It will give a clear outline of the Authority will consider when assessing applications. A Statement of Principles can be challenged by way of judicial review.

**Community Safety Implications**

The administration and enforcement of the licensing regime should assist in reducing crime and disorder.

**Human Rights Implications**

None

**Background Papers**

None

**Ward**

Not ward related