

## **BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report of:** Executive People and Public Protection Manager

**To:** Committee of the Licensing Authority 21/11/2018  
Full Council 6/12/2018

**Author:** Donna Hall, Licensing and Business Support Manager

**Subject:** Revised Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles)

**Purpose:** Consideration of the Council's revised Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles)

### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) That the Committee consider the amended Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) as shown at Appendix A of this report, which has been updated following consultation feedback

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council (the Licensing Authority) to prepare and publish a Statement of the Principles (Gambling Policy) that it proposes to apply in exercising its licensing functions. The statement will last for a maximum of three years, but can be reviewed and revised by the Authority at any time. This Authority's current statement took effect in January 2016 and so the required review process must be completed by the end of 2018 to enable publication in January 2019. This report summarises the proposed amendments to the Policy.
- 1.2 The Gambling Act 2005 places the responsibility for the licensing of gambling premises and the issuing of gambling permits with Local Authorities, with the associated responsibility for ensuring that the conditions on these licences are upheld. Amongst other matters the 2005 Act deals with the licensing of:
  - Casinos
  - Betting shops
  - Bingo halls
  - Amusement arcades
  - Gaming machines
  - Society lotteries
- 1.3 The Act requires Licensing Authorities to prepare, consult on and publish a Statement of Licensing Principles (Gambling Policy) that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during the 3 year period to which the policy applies.
- 1.4 Core to the Gambling Act are the licensing objectives. These are:
  - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.
  - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open manner
  - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

1.5 Section 349 (3) of the 2005 Act requires the Licensing Authority to consult the following on its licensing policy statement or any subsequent revision:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- One or more persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the Authority's area; and
- One or more persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the Authority's functions under the Act

The list of persons to be consulted when preparing the licensing policy statement is deliberately wide. This enables Licensing Authorities to undertake a comprehensive consultation exercise with anyone who may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in the Licensing Policy statement.

1.6 Section 154 of the 2005 Act indicates that adoption of the Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) cannot be delegated to the Committee of the Licensing Authority, therefore full Council must adopt the final document. This is different to the granting of gambling premises licences which the Act automatically delegates to the Committee of the Licensing Authority. It is proposed that the Council meeting on 6th December will consider the final version of the proposed revised policy. The timetable for the process is below:

17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Draft amendments were considered by the Committee of the Licensing Authority

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

Proposed amendments to the Policy issued for consultation

27<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Draft amended policy considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

12 October 2018

Closing date for consultation responses

21<sup>st</sup> November

Consultation results to be considered by the Committee of the Licensing Authority. Any appropriate amendments to be made and then recommend the revised Policy to the Council for adoption.

6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Revised policy to be adopted by the Council

31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Revised policy to take effect

1.7 We have reviewed the current Gambling Policy in light of experience in dealing with gambling premises and issues over the last three years, as well as considering the Gambling Commission guidance to Licensing Authorities. We have also now taken into consideration the feedback from the public consultation. In response to the consultation we have received responses from the following:

- Gosschalks Solicitors (on behalf of the Association of British Bookmakers)
- Norfolk County Council Public Health

- Bingo Association

The responses have been included as Appendix B to this report. Feedback has been taken into consideration where possible and the policy has been updated. **The new/amended sections are shown in green in the policy attached as Appendix A.**

## 2.0 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The options for the Committee are limited as the process is legislative and dictated by the Gambling Act 2005. The Council has no discretion as to making the Statement of Principles, although there is some discretion as to the content of the statement.
- 2.2 The Committee consider the revised policy and provide feedback. The Committee agree for the policy to go to full Council for approval and adoption.
- 2.3 Do nothing

## 3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To ensure that Breckland Council, acting as the Licensing Authority, can meet its statutory duties under the Gambling Act 2005.

## 4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1 The expected benefit is having a transparent and up to date policy on gambling, and enabling compliance with our statutory obligations under the Gambling Act 2005.

## 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

### 5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

- 5.1.1 The consultation document has been emailed to consultees where possible to reduce printing and paper. The document is also available on the Council's website.

### 5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

- 5.2.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Licensing Authority produces a Statement of Principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 and that it reviews it every three years. If the Authority does not produce a revised policy within the statutory timescale, there is a risk that the Authority will not be in a position to process applications, leaving the Authority open to challenge.

### 5.3 **Corporate Priorities**

5.3.1 This policy supports the corporate priorities: Supporting Breckland to develop and thrive  
Providing the right service, at the right time and in the right way;  
Enabling stronger, more independent communities;  
Developing the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth

#### 5.4 **Crime and Disorder**

5.4.1 Norfolk constabulary were a consultee on this policy. There are criminal offences under the Gambling Act 2005 and so the policy will support businesses to comply with the law.

#### 5.5 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.5.1 The policy addresses how human rights are considered in respect of enforcement action and also addresses information sharing and Data Protection.

#### 5.6 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.6.1 The policy addresses how children and vulnerable adults should be protected from gambling related harm including addiction and financial exploitation.

#### 5.7 **Safeguarding**

5.7.1 The new policy covers safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in more detail and now includes additional appendices to explain in more detail the risks and how these can be managed.

#### 5.8 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.8.1 Full consultation has been carried out as detailed in this report and within the policy. Consultation included responsible authorities and other parties listed in Appendix 2 of the Policy.

#### 6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

The policy applies to all wards

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Background papers:- [Gambling Commission Guidance for Licensing Authorities  
http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-licensing-authorities/GLA/Guidance-to-licensing-authorities.aspx](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-licensing-authorities/GLA/Guidance-to-licensing-authorities.aspx)

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**Key Decision:** No

**Exempt Decision:** No

**This report refers to a Mandatory Service**

**Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A	Draft Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) 2019
Appendix B	Consultation responses