

Report to the Licensing Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Date of meeting: 9th March 2020

Portfolio: Commercial and Regulatory Services

Subject: Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Policy

Responsible Officer: Kim Tuckey (01992 564034).

Democratic Services: Adrian Hendry (01992 524246)

Decisions Required:

That the revised Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Policy attached with this report is approved.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Statement of Principles must be reviewed every three years and is due for review.

Other Options for Action:

None. It is a requirement under the Gambling Act 2005 that an approved Statement of Principles is in place

Report

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. This is incorporated into the Epping Forest Council's Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Statement of Licensing Policy was last reviewed in 2016 and a further review is overdue. This review has now been carried out and amendments have been made following latest guidance from the Gambling Commission. Following a full consultation with all interested parties, Members are asked to consider the updated Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Policy Statement of Principles.

For information, at the time of producing this report the following premises and permits relevant to this policy are operating on the District

Betting offices	12
Occasional use	0
Club Gaming permits	14
Gaming Machine permits	9

Consultation Responses

A consultation letter or email was sent out to all consultees at the beginning of January 2020 and replies were asked to be returned by 19th February 2020

Responses, which are attached with this report, were received from:

- (a) Charlotte Meller- Gambling Commission
- (b) Brian Minihane-William Hill
- (c) Maclom Macdonal St Marys Church Loughton
- (d) Lisa McGee St Micheal's Church
- (e) Cllr Cherry Mc Credie
- (f) Cllr Stephen Murray Loughton Town Council
- (g) Cllr Nigel Bedford
- (h) Game Care

The comments from the Gambling Commission have been incorporated into our policy, however, the other comments, whilst noted, have not.

Resource Implication:

None

Legal and Governance Implications:

Gambling Act 2005. Requirement to review Statement of Principles every 3 years

Safer and Cleaner and Greener Implications:

Better Regulation of Gambling.

Background Papers:

Gambling Commission – Guidance to Local Authorities – 5th Edition

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management:

Its important to have an up to date Statement of Principles, not to do so would compromise the Councils decision to take enforcement action in respect of premises subject to Gambling Act 2005

Equality and Diversity

The Statement of Policy addresses the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Children are prohibited from entering premises used wholly or mainly as a casino.

There are admission restrictions on other premises.

The location of premises should be taken into account when deciding to grant a licence.

Conditions can be imposed on premises e.g. supervision of entrances/machines, segregation of areas where machines and gambling are located etc.

Attachments

Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Policy

List of responses from Consultees