

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2019

GAMBLING POLICY – REVISION AND CONSULTATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information concerning the new proposed Statement of Gambling Principles and inform the Committee that these Gambling Principles are currently out for consultation until 26 July 2019.
- 1.2 The General Purposes and Licensing Committee will be informed of the comments received at the meeting in September 2019 and will be required to consider recommending the finalised Statement of Gambling Principles to Full Council for adoption.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The New Forest District Council is the Licensing Authority, and is required to discharge its responsibilities in relation to the Gambling Act 2005.
- 2.2 It is a statutory requirement that the Statement of Gambling Principles must be approved by Council as this is not a function that can be delegated to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.
- 2.3 The licensing objectives which underpin the Gambling Act are;
- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
 - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;
 - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 2.4 The Statement of Gambling Principles outlines the Authority's policy in respect of granting licences, permits and registrations issued under the Gambling Act 2005 in order to promote the licensing objectives.
- 2.5 The policy is to be reviewed every three years, to ensure that it remains current and reflects any changes in legislation or statutory guidance and is subject to a consultation process.
- 2.6 In reviewing the Statement of Gambling Principles, Officers have revised the format and content to reflect the latest guidance issued to licensing authorities by the Gambling Commission.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Before amending the Statement, the Council is required to consult the police, persons representing gambling businesses and persons representing the interests of people likely to be affected by gambling.

- 3.2 This extensive consultation process was commenced on 7 May 2019 following discussion with the Chair of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, in order to seek the views of those affected by the Council exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 3.3 The Licensing Authority will consider all comments received except those based on a dislike of gambling, moral objections or comments on the demand or need for gambling premises in the district, as precluded by the Act.
- 3.4 All details of the consultation and the revised Draft Policy are published on the New Forest District Council website and are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The consultation runs from 7 May to 26 July 2019.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Licensing Authority review and revise the Statement of Gambling Principles.
- 4.2 The comments following the consultation and the revised Statement of Gambling Principles will be taken to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee in September for consideration.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications of the proposals contained within this report.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is minimal environmental impact of these proposals.

7.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Where applicable the Gambling Act Policy will cover the approach taken by the Council to consider crime and disorder concerns.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Where applicable the Gambling Act Policy will cover the approach taken by the Council to address equality and diversity matters.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Committee notes the content of the draft revised Statement of Gambling Principles and that the document is currently out for consultation until 26 July 2019.

- 9.2 That the Committee note that at the meeting in September 2019, it will be required to consider commending for approval the finalised Statement of Gambling Policy to Full Council.

Environmental and Regulation Service

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Background Papers:

Statutory Guidance issued under s25 of the Gambling Act 2005 (5th Edition)

The Gambling Act 2005

Appendices:

1.NFDC Draft Statement of Principles (Draft Gambling Policy)