

TITLE	Review Of Statement Of Gambling Principles
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee 21 March 2018
WARD	Non-specific
DIRECTOR	Sean Murphy - Public Protection Manager

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 ('the Act') 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 ('Statement'). The Statement will last for a maximum of three years and can be reviewed and revised by the authority at any time.

The present Statement was published in November 2015 and therefore must undergo a review and be re-published before the end of November 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee agrees

- i) for consultation to commence with the proposed revised policy at Annex A, and
- ii) for the matter to return for consideration at the next meeting in June prior to Council approval.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a chance to give initial comments on the draft policy to go out for consultation. Members of the Committee will be consulted on the content of the Policy as a matter of course. Members may also wish to add details of any proposed consultees to the list at Annex B.

Background

The Statement must be produced following consultation with those bodies and persons set out in subsection (3) of section 349 of the Act. This includes the Chief Officer of Police, persons who represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the area and persons who represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Act.

The views of all consultees should be given appropriate weight when the policy is determined. Beyond the statutory requirements, it is for the licensing authority to decide the full extent of its consultation. Whilst it is clearly good practice to consult widely, this may not always be necessary or appropriate.

Analysis of Issues

If the authority does not have a robust policy in place then there is an increased risk of successful challenges to decisions made by the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	No impact	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	No impact	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	No impact	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

List of Background Papers

Statement of Gambling Principles (Nov 2015)

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Date 12 March 2018	Version No. 1.3

List of Consultees

- Association of British Bookmakers
- Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
- Bingo Association
- British Amusement Catering Trade Association
- British Institute of Inn Keeping
- British Beer and Pub Association
- Committee of Registered Club Associations
- Federation of Licensed Victuallers Associations
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Gambling Commission
- GAMCARE
- Guild of Master Victuallers
- HM Revenue and Customs
- Holders of existing gambling licences / permits
- National Association of Bookmakers
- National Federation of Community Organisations
- Parish and Town Councils
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue
- Thames Valley Police / Community Safety Partnership
- Wokingham Borough Citizens Panel
- Wokingham Borough Council Planning
- Wokingham Borough Council Environmental Health
- Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board

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