

TITLE	Review of Statement of Gambling Principles
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 20 September 2018
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	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 to take effect from the end of January 2016 and therefore must undergo a review and be re-published to take effect by the end of January 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approves the revised Statement of Gambling Principles, as attached at Annex A to the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report introduces the revised Statement which has been updated to reflect the results of the consultation exercise carried out as required by legislation.

Background

The updated Statement of Gambling Principles was approved by the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 4 September 2018.

In addition to general re-formatting and minor points of clarification or update, the material changes are as follows:

- Revised section 1.1 to clarify the purpose of the Statement
- Added section 1.4 to clarify licensable activities and those areas of responsibility of the licensing authority
- Added reference to the 'Primary Authority' scheme in 1.8
- Adding additional guidance on local risk assessments in 1.9
- Added section 2.11 reference track betting licence (this section previously advised it would be completed should an application be received, but the applicant would need to know the authority's position to take into account prior to making an application, and to review the Statement is not something that can be done at short notice and without referral through full Council)
- Added 4.1 on decision making and 4.2 on appeals.
- Added a set of appendices including details of consultees on the policy, the map of the borough, the delegations for decision making and a glossary

Analysis of Issues

The Statement must, by law, be revised and re-published to take effect from the end of January 2019. There are no alternative options as the revision of the Statement is a legal requirement.

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	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	No impact	N/A	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	No impact	N/A	Revenue

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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