

# Agenda Item 21.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles Review</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 9 November 2015
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Paul Anstey – Joint Service Delivery Manager - West Berkshire and Wokingham Environmental Health and Licensing

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This report introduces a draft policy for consideration, together with the results from the consultation exercise undertaken during September and October 2015 following an initial draft policy put to the members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee for consideration on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Licensing and Appeals Committee is recommended to agree the draft Gambling Act Statement of Principles as presented in the Appendix to this report and to recommend its adoption by Resolution to the Council.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report presents the outcomes of the consultation exercise on the Gambling Act draft Statement of Principles previously agreed by Members on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The draft document has not been amended following the consultation. The responses were observations or comments in nature and do not to affect the original content of the proposed draft Statement of Principles.

## **Background**

Under the Gambling Act 2005, the Council is required to review and consult upon its 'Statement of Gambling Principles' every three years from the date of adoption. The present Statement of Gambling Principles was published on 31 January 2013 and therefore must undergo a review and be re-published on or before 31 January 2016.

The statement must be produced following consultation with those bodies and persons set out in subsection (3) of section 349. 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.

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

The existing statement has so far been found to be suitable for its purpose. This policy was subject to an extensive consultation exercise in 2009. Amendments to the policy were made following guidance issued by the Gambling Commission's Licensing Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) and Local Government Association in early 2015.

A period of four weeks was allowed for consultation on the draft statement of principles. The responses received which were observations or comments have not been incorporated into the draft statement.

For Members' information the dates for completion of this process are as follows:

19 November	Draft statement for consideration for adoption by Council
17 December	New statement published
31 January 2016	Statement comes into effect

### Analysis of Issues

Draft Statement of Gambling Principles for consideration which is amended following recent guidance and consultation.

### 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)	Nil	Yes	
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Nil	Yes	
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Nil	Yes	

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

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

### Cross-Council Implications

There are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report

### Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

Not Applicable

### List of Background Papers

Existing Gambling Act Statement of Principles  
 Gambling Commission – Guidance to Local Authorities  
 Local Government Association (May 2015) – Letter to Licensing Authorities  
 Licensing and Appeals Committee Report 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

<b>Contact</b> Julia O'Brien	<b>Service</b> Licensing
<b>Telephone No</b> 01635 519519	<b>Email</b> jobrien@westberks.gov.uk
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