

# Agenda Item 9.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>An Approach For Tackling Gambling Related Harm</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 22 June 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framaliccio

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

Local authorities are responsible for issuing gambling premises licences, monitoring compliance with the terms of these licences and the wider Gambling Act 2005, and taking enforcement action if necessary, and are required to have regard to the Gambling Act's licensing objectives, one of which is protecting children and other people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee notes the Statement of Gambling Principles and **DECIDES** that officers should initiate an operation in reference to the best practice for the Licensing Authority as identified in Local Government Association guidance.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Licensing Authority has a policy which is an overarching statement of principles setting out how they will approach gambling regulation.

To help tackle gambling related harm, it is recommended by the Local Government Association to:

- undertake an up to date local area profile in relation to gambling related harms
- set out expectations of local gambling operators and risk assessment processes
- undertake compliance visits and use enforcement tools appropriately
- undertake underage sales testing
- encourage local gambling businesses to apply for Gamcare certification for best in class player protection policies and undertake the Gamcare training courses

## Background

1. At a meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 30 January 2023, gambling related harm was discussed with a view to review the Council policy on gambling, and take steps towards a full Council approach.
2. The Local Government Association (LGA) has provided a Councillor Handbook which is a comprehensive guide to Licensing Authority functions in respect of gambling. A link is provided at **Appendix A**.
3. The LGA has also produced a guide to Local Authorities on tackling gambling related harm. The guide is a whole Council approach including planning, social services, and public health. A link is provided at **Appendix B**. Attention is drawn to pages 15-20 in that document “How councils’ regulatory tools can help tackle gambling-related harm” which includes the role of the Licensing Authority and the Planning Authority.
4. The Local Authority has issued a Statement of Gambling Principles which was adopted on 18 November 2022, and is in effect until 2025. Therefore, there is no requirement to review the policy until 2025. This is attached at **Appendix C**. The committee is invited to note the current policy.
5. The committee is invited to direct officers to the step towards best practice identified by the LGA and to receive a report back of findings from the operation at a committee meeting later in the calendar year.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

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

There will be no financial implications from what is proposed in this report.

Resource allocation needs to take into account priorities for licensing regulation in respect of licensable activities other than gambling, and the number of betting premises in the borough and the risk they present.

### Cross-Council Implications

Gambling related harms to individuals and families may have impact on several Council services, such as Children’s Safeguarding, Public Health, Offender Management, Development Control.

### Public Sector Equality Duty

Due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty will be taken.

***Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

There is no identifiable impact on the Council’s carbon neutral objective.

### List of Background Papers

**Appendix A** [Gambling regulation: Councillor handbook \(England and Wales\) | Local Government Association](#)

**Appendix B** [Tackling gambling related harm a whole council approach \(local.gov.uk\)](#)

**Appendix C** [Wokingham Borough Council Statement of Gambling Principles](#)

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