

**GAMBLING ACT 2005 – LICENSING POLICY
STATEMENT 2010 – 2013**

Portfolio:	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To consider and comment on a ‘Statement of Policy that has been approved by the Executive in relation to functions exercised by the Council under the Gambling Act 2005

Background

1. In order to exercise functions under the Gambling Act 2005, the Council has to set out its policies in relation to this function in a document to be reviewed not less than every three years. The current Statement of Policy was approved by the Council on 13th December 2006 and became effective when the Act came into force on 1st September 2007. The current Statement of Licensing Policy therefore needs to be reviewed and published without delay.

Current Position

2. A review of the Statement of Licensing Policy has been undertaken by officers and it is felt that the main substance of the document still remains valid.
3. The Statement of Licensing Policy incorporating amendments will be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive in the 6th April 2010. Following approval of the revised draft Statement of Policy by the Executive, various ‘responsible authorities’, appropriate organisations and interested parties must be consulted before the Statement of Licensing Policy is finalised. The period of consultation is expected to last for 12 weeks.
4. The following organisations/ persons must be consulted on the draft policy statement:
 - a) The Chief Officer of Police for the area;
 - b) One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority’s area.
 - c) One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005

The Council may also use its discretion to consult other people or organisations as it considers appropriate.

5. The draft Statement of Licensing Policy containing suggested amendments will be circulated shortly.

Resource Implications

6. The only resource implications arising from the process of this consultation will be postage and stationary costs which could be in the region of £50 to £150.

Options

7. Any amendments to the existing Statement of Licensing Policy are made at the discretion of the Council but due weight will have to be given to any representations made as a result of the consultation process. There is no alternative but to undertake the review of the Statement of Policy as the Council would be unable to exercise its licensing function in the absence of valid Statement of Policy.

Recommendation

8. The Committee as consultees is invited to make comments on the proposed revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy for consideration by the Executive prior to the finalisation of the Statement of Licensing Policy by full Council.

Background Papers:

None

Author:

Jessica Harris 01276 707626
e-mail: Jessica.harris@surreyheath.gov.uk

Head of Service:

Derek McManus – Head of Corporate Governance