

Gambling Act 2005 – Draft Statement of Principles

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To consider and approve for consultation purposes a draft “Statement of Policy” in relation to exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005

Background and Current Position

1. The Council as a licensing authority has a duty to undertake various regulatory functions imposed by the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. The main functions are:
 - Licensing premises for gambling activities
 - Considering notices given for the temporary use of premises for gambling
 - Granting permits for gaming and gaming machines in clubs and miners’ welfare institutes
 - Regulating gaming and gaming machines in premises licensed for the supply of alcohol
 - Granting permits to family entertainment centres for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines
 - Granting permits for prize gaming
 - Considering occasional use notices for betting at tracks
 - Registering small societies’ lotteries
2. Before exercising these functions the Council must first adopt a “Statement of Policy” indicating how the functions will be exercised.
3. The Statement can only be adopted after consultations on the draft document have taken place with various bodies/organisations including the chief officer of police, trade associations, trade unions, residents and tenants associations, county councillors, parish councils and the Member of Parliament for the Constituency.
4. The Council has a statutory duty to adopt a “Statement of Policy” for the purpose of exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005, and to review it at least every 3 years.
5. The current “Statement of Policy” must be reviewed by 13 October 2013 in order to conform. This must be preceded by a period of public consultation.

Proposal

6. A draft statement based on the current “Statement of Policy” is attached as Annex A. The Committee is asked to approve the draft statement with such amendments as may be considered necessary and to authorise consultations to take place to the extent required by statute and regulation.

Resources Implications

7. Undertaking consultations in relation to the draft statement and its eventual publication will mainly involve printing, advertising and operational management costs. Provision for this expenditure has been made in the Licensing budget for 2013/14.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the draft “Statement of Policy” for betting licensing, as attached at Annex A be approved for consultation purposes and that consultations only be undertaken as required by statute and regulation.

Annexes

The draft Statement of Policy is attached at Annex A

Background Papers:

None

Author:

Derek Seekings 01276 707327

licensing@surreyheath.gov.uk