

**Surrey Heath Borough Council**  
**Licensing Committee**  
**16 February 2022**

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**Gambling Statement of Principles 2022-2025**

<b>Strategic Director/Head of Service</b>	Nick Steevens
<b>Report Author:</b>	Helen Lolley
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All

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**Summary and purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the revised Statement of Principles 2022-2025 (SoP) in relation to exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act).

The Act requires all licensing authorities (LA(s)) to prepare and publish a statement of licensing principles. Statements have effect for a maximum of three years and must be reviewed thereafter. Surrey Heath's current SoP 2019-22 expires at the end of January 2022 and has been reviewed and revised as required.

In October 2021 the revised SoP 2022-2025 was considered by the Licensing Committee and approval was given for us to consult on it.

The period of consultation has now ended and we are therefore seeking approval of the revised SoP as outlined in this report.

**Recommendation**

The Licensing Committee is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) Full Council be recommended that the revised Statement of Principles 2022-2025 (SoP) in relation to exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005 be adopted.

**1. Background and Supporting Information**

- 1.1 Surrey Heath Borough Council through its licensing team is responsible for licensing and regulating a range of gambling activities as set out in the Act.

- 1.2 Section 349 of the Act requires each licensing authority (LA(s)) to prepare and publish a SoP that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act. The SoP applies for 3 years after which it must be reviewed and a new SoP published.
- 1.3 The current SoP came into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and expires on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- 1.4 On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 the Licensing Committee considered the draft revised SoP and made the following resolution:
  - i. The contents of the report be noted
  - ii. The draft Statement of Principles 2022-2025, as set out in the annex to the report, be approved for consultation.
- 1.5 Consultation on the draft revised SoP started on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 and lasted for 6 weeks. As part of the consultation we made contact with the groups and persons as outlined in the report presented to committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Annex A.
- 1.6 All Ward Councillors were contacted to give them an opportunity to comment.
- 1.7 The consultation period ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. No responses or comments were made on the revised draft SoP. As a result no amendments have been made to the SoP which is attached as Annex B.
- 1.8 Once approved we will be required to publish a notice of our intention to publish a new SoP, which will then come into effect four weeks later.

The notice will:

- a. Specify the date on which the revised SoP will be published and come into effect;
- b. Provide details of where the SoP can be found on our website and the Council's address and advise that the SoP will be available on our website for at least 4 weeks before it comes into effect;
- c. Be published in a local newspaper, placed on a public notice board in the Council's offices and on public notice boards on the premises of public libraries located in Surrey Heath;
- d. Advise that the SoP will be available for inspection at public libraries in Surrey Heath

## **2. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 LA(s) are required by the Act to prepare and publish a SoP, which has effect for a maximum of three years and must be reviewed thereafter.

2.2 The current SoP 2019- 2022 has been revised in accordance with section 349 of the Act. Following consultation on the revised SoP 2022-2025 no comments were received and we are now seeking approval of the SoP 2022-2025.

2.3 If approved we will publish the notice as outlined in 1.8, the SoP will take effect four weeks after publication of the notice.

### **3. Proposal and Alternative Options**

3.1 That approval is given to the SoP 2022-2025.

3.2 No other option is available as the SoP has already been considered by the Licensing Committee in its current format.

### **4. Contribution to the Council's Five Year Strategy**

4.1 The licensing objectives of the draft Gambling SoP relate to the prevention of gambling being a source of, or associated with, crime or disorder or being used to support crime; ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way and protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. These objectives align with the Council's 2022- 2027 Five Year Strategy priorities with regard to Health and wellbeing; Economy and Effective and responsive Council:

### **5. Resource Implications**

5.1 Placing a notice in the local newspaper etc. will cost in the region of £500.

5.2 No other resource implications have been identified.

### **6. Section 151 Officer Comments:**

6.1 None.

### **7. Legal and Governance Issues**

7.1 The Council as licensing authority has a statutory duty under the Gambling Act 2005 to prepare and publish a statement of licensing principles.

### **8. Monitoring Officer Comments:**

8.1 None

### **9. Other Considerations and Impacts**

#### **Environment and Climate Change**

9.1 No direct impacts.

## **Equalities and Human Rights**

9.2 No direct impacts.

## **Risk Management**

9.3 The Council is fulfilling its statutory duty by reviewing the SoP after three years.

## **Community Engagement**

9.4 Consultation on the draft SoP has taken place and there will be a public notice of the intention to publish a new SoP, as outlined in section 1.0

## **Annexes**

A: Report presented to the Licensing Committee on 20th October 2021- Agenda item 4 Gambling Act 2005, Draft Revised Statement of Principles 2022-2025

B: Gambling Act 2005- Statement of Principles 2022-2025.

## **Background Papers**

Gambling Commission – Guidance to licensing authorities (Published April 2021)