

GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF LICENSING 2022-2025
CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED POLICY

Report of the Corporate Director (Place)

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report informs members of the decision taken by the Corporate Director for Place & Deputy Chief Executive to commence consultation on the Councils proposed Gambling Policy titled "Gambling Act (2005) Statement of Principles of Licensing 2022-2025".
- 1.2 Members are invited to provide comments on the updated policy either as a committee or individually

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The format of the proposed Statement of Principles has been changed from the current version. The proposed statement is attached at **Appendix A**
- 2.2 During the period of the current Statement of Principles a Greater Manchester Gambling Harms Reduction programme has been established, the programme covers all of Greater Manchester and aims to support reductions in gambling harms. Collaborative work has been undertaken to align the Gambling Statements of Principles across the region whilst still recognising local demographics.
- 2.3 The proposed policy includes:
 - Information on public health and links to gambling related harms,
 - Updated information in respect of demographics,
 - A list of primary authorities for named companies,
 - Additional considerations in respect of applications and reviews, and
 - Reference to the relatively new activity of entertainment bingo.
- 2.4 An overview of the changes in the proposed policy is attached at **Appendix B**.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The regulation of the activities set out under the Gambling Act is a statutory function delivered by the Public Protection Service within Place Directorate of Stockport Council.

- 3.2 The Gambling Act requires that all Licensing Authorities must review, consult and publish a statement of the principles of licensing (The Policy) every 3 years.
- 3.3 This statement was last reviewed in 2018 and published in 2019.
- 3.4 The statement is due for review and the revised statement should come into effect on 31 January 2022. The review has been slightly delayed due to staff workload and in particular taxi policy work in respect of the Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 An item was published on the Councils forward plan on 25 October 2021 confirming that the Corporate Director would be asked to approve consultation on the proposed Gambling Act Statement of Principles.
- 4.2 On Friday 26 November 2021 the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive approved a 7 week public consultation on the proposed statement of principles. The consultation commenced on 3 December 2021 and will close on 21 January 2022. Although this is a period of 7 weeks it is recognised that due to the Christmas bank holiday period this is in effect a 6 working weeks consultation period
- 4.3 During the consultation period the proposed statement is being presented to the Licensing Environment and Safety Committee for information and comments and also the Cabinet Member. The proposed statement has been posted on the council website for comment and sent directly to the parties listed in **Appendix C**
- 4.4 Following consultation and analysis of the results the intention is to engage the following democratic process:
- 21 January 2022 – consultation closes
 - 8 or 15 February 2022* - report to Corporate Leadership Team
 - 28 February 2022 – report to Scrutiny Committee
 - 15 March 2022 – report to Cabinet
 - 31 March 2022 – report to Full Council

*date of 8 or 15 February to be finalised

- 4.5 Following the meeting of Council on 31 March, it is expected the revised policy with or without amendments will become effective on 1 April 2022

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Committee considers the report and appendices and provides comments to the Licensing team by 21 January 2022

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Proposed draft NR3 policy

Appendix B– Overview of the changes in the proposed Policy

Appendix C – List of consultees directed contacted by the Council

Anyone requiring further information should contact Sarah Tooth email
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