

GAMBLING POLICY - STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES 2022-2025**Report of the Corporate Director (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive****1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the Councils updated draft Gambling Act (2005) Statement of Principles of Licensing 2022-2025 (The Policy)
- 1.2 The draft Policy has been subject to a public consultation and subsequent review by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). As part of the governance process, the draft Policy is now presented to scrutiny Committee for comment before the next stage of Governance ie Cabinet.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Gambling Act requires that all Local Authorities must review, consult and publish a statement of the principles of licensing (The Gambling Policy) every 3 years. The Policy was last published in January 2019. The current review has been slightly delayed due to staff workload and in particular taxi policy work in respect of Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards
- 2.2 An item was published on the Councils forward plan on 25 October 2021, and on 26 November 2021, the then Corporate Director (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive approved a 7 week consultation ending 18 January 2022. On 15 December as part of the consultation process a report was presented to the Licensing Environment and Safety Committee for information and comment. The statement was also provided to the Cabinet member for information and comment
- 2.3 The List of consultees is detailed at **Appendix A**
- 2.4 The format of the proposed Gambling Policy was changed from the current version. During the period of the current policy 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 Gambling Policy's across the region whilst still recognising local demographics
- 2.5 Following consultation 1 response was received from Poppleston Allen Licensing Solicitors on behalf of their client Merkur Slots UK Ltd and Merkur Bingo and Casino Entertainment Ltd. The issues raised in the consultation response together with officers comments and any suggested amendments are detailed at **Appendix B**. Officers emailed Appendix B to Poppleston Allen on 27 January 2022 inviting further discussion and or debate by the end of 2 February 2022. No further response was received

3. POST CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Following review of the consultation response the proposed gambling policy was amended to reflect the changes outlined in **Appendix B**. The updated policy with is now attached at **Appendix C**
- 3.2 On 15 February the updated policy was considered by CLT, and no further amendments proposed
- 3.3 Following consideration by Scrutiny Committee, the draft Policy will be considered and reported as follows
 - 15 March 2022 – Report to Cabinet
 - 31 March 2022- Report to Council

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The slight delay in the review of the Gambling Policy has meant that the revised Policy will not be in place until 2 months after the scheduled implementation date ie 31 March rather than 31 January, any Gambling Act applications received during the 2 month intervening period will be determined after 31 March in accordance with the revised Policy

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The proposed Gambling Policy has been subject to consultation and received 1 consultation response, suggested minor amendments are as detailed in **Appendix B** and have been included within the updated policy at **Appendix C**.
- 9.2 The Cabinet is requested to recommend that the Council Meeting approves and adopts the Gambling Policy Statement of Licensing Principles 2022-2025.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Gambling Act 2005

Draft Gambling policy 2022-2025

Gambling Act Guidance issued to Local Authorities May 2021

Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice 31 October 2020

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Sarah Tooth

on Tel: 0161 474 4176 or by email on sarah.tooth@stockport.gov.uk