

LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

GAMBLING ACT 2005 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY

8th October 2009
Report of Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of arrangements for carrying out a review of the Council's Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy in accordance with the statutory timetable contained within the Gambling Act 2005.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 provides that each licensing authority shall before each successive period of three years, prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during that period, and, publish that statement.
- 1.2 In January 2007, during the transitional period leading up to the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005, this Council established its first Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy in preparation for receiving applications for premises licences and permits in September of that year.
- 1.3 Before determining its policy for a three year period the licensing authority must consult with the following:-
- The Chief Officer of Police for the area
 - One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area
 - 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

- 1.4 As the authority's existing Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy was established in January 2007, the policy is now due to be reviewed and a revised statement issued by January 2010.
- 1.5 A revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy has been drawn up. In the main, the document is based on the LACORS (Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services) standard template. It also takes account of the third edition of the Gambling Commission's guidance issued to licensing authorities in May 2009. A copy of the revised draft policy is attached at Appendix A for members' information.
- 1.6 As part of the review process, it will be necessary to again consult with all the bodies listed in 1.3 above. Following the consultation process, which is scheduled to last for a period of 12 weeks from 27th July until 19th October 2009, the licensing authority must publish the final version of its Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy by no later than January 2010.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 Members will be kept informed of developments regarding the consultation on the review of the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy over the coming months. It will be necessary for any proposed changes to the existing policy to be approved by this Committee and subsequently by full Council at its meeting to be held on 16th December 2009, prior to publication of the revised policy in January 2010.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)	
None.	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	
There are no financial implications.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	
None.	Contact Officer: Mr. S. Wearing Telephone: 01524 582317 E-mail: swearing@lancaster.gov.uk Ref: SW