

# LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

## Gambling Act 2005 Consultation on the Draft Revised Statement of Licensing Policy 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015

### Report of the Licensing Manager

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to inform Members that the consultation process for the Gambling Act 2005 revised Statement of Policy as required by Section 349 of the Act will begin on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015

**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 the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during that period, and, publish that statement.
- 1.2 The current policy came into force in January 2013. A revised Draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy and a summary of the proposed changes has been prepared by the licensing manager and is attached at appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.3 When updating the policy the licensing manager has had regard to the latest Draft Guidance from the Gambling Commission which is currently out for consultation, and is due to be finalised shortly. The draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy which will go out from this Council for consultation may be amended in light of anything contained in the final guidance when released by the Gambling Commission.
- 1.4 For the purpose of reviewing the Licensing Policy, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, Lancaster City Council are required to consult with:
  - 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 2005

1.5 Consultation on a revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy will be held from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 until 24 October 2015. In addition to the statutory requirements regarding consultation as outlined above, the following steps will be taken to ensure the consultation will be as effective as possible:-

- A press release will be issued regarding the consultation process
- The revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy will be made available on the council's website
- Copies of the above document will be made available at the council's offices
- All premises that hold an alcohol licence under the Licensing Act 2003 will be consulted
- All premises that hold a licence under the Gambling Act 2005 will be consulted

## 2.0 Consultation Process

2.1 Letters will be sent to all licence holders, and all other stakeholders, requesting responses by 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Copies of the Draft revised policy will be placed on the Lancaster City Council website on the licensing page, as well as in the Town Halls in Morecambe and Lancaster

A press release will be published in the Lancaster Guardian.

2.2 Any responses from the consultation will be reported back to this Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015.

2.3 The Policy will then go to full Council on 16th December 2015, for implementation in January 2016, in order to satisfy the statutory time frames.

## 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The Licensing Authority is required by the Act to revise its Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy every 3 years, and to consult with stakeholders, before publishing and implementing the updated Policy. This report is intended to inform members that the consultation process will be starting.

### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The report has been prepared on behalf of the Chief Officer (Governance).

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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