

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 Consultation Responses

11 September 2025

Report of Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For members to consider responses to a public consultation regarding the Councils draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028. Members should consider any amendments prior to making recommendations to Cabinet.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) In light of consultation responses received members are asked to consider amendments to the draft policy and.**
- (2) Make recommendations to the Councils Cabinet for approval of the draft policy.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act") 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 function of Licensing Committee is to approve the draft policy and make recommendations to the Council Cabinet, prior to approval by Full Council.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The purpose of the Statement of Gambling Policy is to assist the Licensing Authority in determining applications and to provide clarity for applicants, residents and members of the business community. This also provides information and guidance on the general approach that the Licensing Authority will take when assessing applications and sets out expected operating standards.
- 2.2 This Licensing Authority covers a variety of licensed premises undertaking a range of activities, including small society lotteries, family entertainment centres, bingo halls, betting shops and gaming machines in pubs and clubs. It is therefore important that the Gambling Policy is sufficiently flexible to reflect their differing needs and characteristics.

- 2.3 The draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 was approved for consultation by Licensing Committee at its June meeting. Attached to the report at **Appendix 1**.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 A 6-week public consultation was carried out between Friday 13th June and Friday 25th July 2025, during that time the draft policy was made available to view on the Councils website and at Morecambe and Lancaster Town Hall(s).

- 3.2 The Act provides that, before determining the policy, a Licensing Authority must 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.

- 3.3 Lancaster City Council consulted directly with the following.

- All holders of gambling premises licences and permits issued by the Council
- All premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 where gaming machines are provided
- All members of Lancaster City Council
- All Parish councils within the Lancaster City Council area
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
- Lancashire Safeguarding – Children
- Lancashire County Council – Trading Standards
- Lancashire County Council - Public Health
- Home Office - H M Revenues and Customs
- Lancaster City Council – Planning and Building Control
- The Gambling Commission
- British Beer and Pub Association
- British Institute of Inn-keeping
- Disability Rights Commission Helpline
- Equity Head Office
- Gamcare
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Money Advice Trust
- Step change Debt Charity
- All agents and legal services who act on behalf of applicants

- 3.4 The policy document was shared with all consultees via email, along with instructions for those wishing to respond to the draft policy.

- 3.5 No (0) responses were received during the consultation period.

4.0 Options

Options available to members are.

- a) Approve the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 with or without modification, and
- b) Make recommendations to Cabinet for adoption of the policy.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider any consultation responses prior to approval of the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 with or without modification.
- 5.2 Licensing Committee are required to make recommendations to the Council Cabinet regarding approval of the policy, prior to adoption by Full Council.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):
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The policy sets out how the Council will determine applications relating to gambling activity in the district, whilst promoting the licensing objectives and protecting children and vulnerable persons from gambling related harms.
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LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important to follow the correct process in implementing the updated policy, with Licensing Committee making recommendations to the Councils Cabinet prior to adoption by Full Council.
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The absence of a valid policy leaves the Council susceptible to legal challenge.
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces
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None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

None.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Miss Jennifer Curtis Telephone: 01524 582732 Email: jcurtis@lancaster.gov.uk Ref: SOGP2025
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