

## **Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028**

**5 November 2025**

### **Report of Cabinet**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Following consideration of the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-28 by the Councils Licensing Committee, a public consultation and on the recommendation of Cabinet, Full Council are required under constitutional arrangements, to adopt the revised policy.

**This report is public.**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That Full Council consider the revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 and following the recommendation of Cabinet, adopt the policy.
- (2) Following adoption, the policy shall take immediate effect.

#### **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 Licensing Committee and the Councils Cabinet have approved the draft policy, in line with the Councils constitution it is necessary for Cabinet to make recommendations to Full Council for adoption.

#### **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.

### **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 In addition to the statutory consultees, 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
  - Local Citizens Advice Bureau
  - 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; members of Licensing Committee therefore approved the initial draft without modification to Cabinet.
- 3.6 At its meeting on 21 October 2025, Cabinet resolved the following in respect of the draft policy.

*“That Cabinet endorse the revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 and refer the policy to full Council for adoption with the referral report reflecting Cabinet’s comments”*

Members requested that the changes represented in the revised policy were highlighted to Full Council and that the final version would include a revised preface.

3.7 The revised and final Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028 is attached at **Appendix 1.**

3.8 As requested. a table highlighting the changes made is attached to the report at **Appendix 2.**

#### **4.0 Options**

Council is asked to adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028, and endorse that it shall take immediate effect.

#### **6.0 Conclusion**

6.1 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.

6.2 The policy has been subject to a public consultation, members of Licensing Committee have considered its content, along with the Councils Cabinet. It is a recommendation of Cabinet to members of Full Council for adoption.

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> <b>(including Health &amp; Safety, Equality &amp; Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):</b>
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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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<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
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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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<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
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None.
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<b>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces</b>
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None.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

None.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

By law, the Council must have a Policy Framework. This is a list of plans and strategies which are relevant to the Council's functions and are required by law to be decided by the Full Council, usually on the recommendation of the Cabinet. The Statement of Gambling Policy forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. The Licensing Committee's terms of reference include the following: - "To develop Licensing and Gambling Policies for consideration by the Cabinet and Full Council;"

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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