



Agenda Item 5

Licensing and Regulatory Committee 19th July 2021

Title: Statutory review of Gambling Policy – Request for public consultation.

Lead Officer: Kathleen Rose

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Judith Falp

Public report

Wards of the District directly affected: All

Contrary to the policy framework: No

Contrary to the budgetary framework: No

Key Decision: No

Included within the Forward Plan: Yes

Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken: Yes

Consultation & Community Engagement: Proposed 6 week public consultation.

Final Decision: Results of public consultation and draft Gambling Policy will be returned to this committee on 27th September 2021 and if supported the amendments will be considered by the Full Council on 20th October 2021.

Accessibility Checked: Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	30.06.2021	Andrew Jones
Head of Service		Marianne Rolfe
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)	30.06.2021	Cllr Judith Falp

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee of the statutory requirement to review the Gambling Policy and to inform them of the proposed schedule for meeting our legal requirements.
- 1.2. This report sets out the new Gambling Policy/Statement of Principles to the Committee.
- 1.3. The report highlights the changes between the current policy and the proposed policy.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Licensing and Regulatory Committee supports the proposals to hold a public consultation on the revised policy between 23rd July 2021 and 3rd September 2021.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1. The Licensing Authority is required by the Gambling Act 2005 to review its Statement of Principles every three years.
- 3.2. The changes to the policy are minimal and are designed to reflect both the Authority's current approach to the Gambling Regime in terms of the unique character of the district and the application of generic legislation, and it's desire to work more closely with Stratford District Council.
- 3.3. The current Policy is attached at **Appendix 1** and the changes are listed in **Appendix 2**.

4. Policy Framework

4.1. Fit for the Future (FFF)

- 4.1.1. The FFF Strategy has 3 strands, People, Services and Money, and each has an external and internal element to it, the details of which can be found [on the Council's website](#). The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

4.2. FFF Strands

4.2.1 External impacts of proposal(s)

People - Health, Homes, Communities - None.

Services - Green, Clean, Safe - The gambling policy recognises that residents within, and visitors to the District, need a safe environment to live, work and visit; and that safe and well run gambling premises are important to the wellbeing of any person within the District.

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment - The Licensing Authority recognises that gambling premises within the District are an important source of local employment.

4.2.2. **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

People - Effective Staff – None.

Services - Maintain or Improve Services - None.

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term – None.

4.3. **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies. The Gambling Policy/Statement of Principles, provide guidance, consistency, best practices, transparency, proportionality and promotes safety and wellbeing to the community. This contributes to the Council's strategy of making Warwick District a great place to live, work and visit.

The policy outlines the way in which this Authority will assist in preventing gambling from being a source of crime. It highlights the procedures for enforcement protocols and best practices, and promotes working in partnership with the Gambling Commission, Responsible Authorities and Operators, and ensures that the licencing objectives are met.

4.4. **Changes to Existing Policies**

4.4.1. None.

4.5. **Impact Assessments**

4.5.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. It is consistent with the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010.

5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1. There are no budgetary implications arising from this Policy review.

6. **Risks**

6.1. It is a legal requirement to review the Gambling Policy every three years, not to carry out the review could lead to legal challenge.

7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1. No alternative to reviewing the policy is available as this is a legal requirement.

8. **Background**

8.1 Warwick District Council s current Statement of Gambling Policy was adopted in January 2019 for a period of 3 years.

- 8.2 It is a legal requirement to review the Gambling Policy every three years.
- 8.3 The review of the current Gambling Policy has been undertaken with due regard to current Gambling Commission guidance, the Gambling Act 2005 and in consultation with neighbouring Licensing Authorities to ensure consistency across Warwickshire.