

REPORT TO	ON
General Licensing Committee	11 September 2018



TITLE	REPORT OF
Consultation on Gambling Policy	Head of Licensing

Is this report confidential?	No
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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To outline the proposed revisions and updates on the council's Gambling Policy and to seek approval to go out to consultation on this document.

### 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	x
Health and Wellbeing	x
Place	

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That committee should consider and approve the updated draft Gambling Policy for the purposes of a consultation exercise to be carried out between the 13 September to the 8 November 2018.

### 4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

4.1 The council's Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) sets out the manner in which the council will generally promote the Licensing Objectives when considering and making decisions on applications made under the Gambling Act (the Act). The council's current Statement of Policy is due to expire on the 31 of January 2019. Under the Act policies endure for a 3 year period.

4.2 The licensing objectives set out in the Act are: 1. preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime and 2. ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way and 3. protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

4.3 Attached to this report (Appendix 1) is an updated version of our Gambling Policy. The Policy has been prepared under Section 349 of the Act and in accordance with the Commission's Guidance for Licensing Authorities issued under Section 25 of the Act. Only relatively minor modifications are being proposed. They include some minor amendments to the Local area Profile, some updates around Data Protection which include reference to the recent change in the law, General Data Protection regulations (GDPR) and more in depth information for operators on Local Risk Assessments, a requirement that came in in April 2016.

4.4 The council is constrained by the provisions of the Act, the Guidance and any Regulations made under the Act. However, the Authority may depart from the Guidance if it has reason to do so, but must give full justification for any such departure.

4.5 Committee's approval to this draft gambling policy is now sought. An extensive consultation exercise will need to be carried out on this draft policy. This consultation exercise will take place between the 13 of September to the 8 of November.

4.6 Following the completion of the consultation exercise the draft policy will be brought back to this committee for further consideration and ultimately to full Council for final adoption.

4.7 The council is required by Section 349 of the Act to publish a new Gambling policy by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019. This Statement of Policy shall be effective from the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019, and shall remain in effect for three years; therefore this Statement will be reviewed in January 2022.

4.8 By way of information the following activities in our borough are covered by the provisions of the Act namely: Betting Shops, Adult Gaming Centres and the offer of gaming machines in Licensed Premises and Club Premises. South Ribble does not have a particularly wide offer of Gambling establishments with 12 Betting shops, most of which are national operators and 1 Adult Gaming Centre located on Hough Lane in Leyland. The gaming machine offer is much broader with virtually every Licensed Premises in the Borough taking advantage of the right to site machines in their premises

## **5.0 PROPOSED CONSULTATION PERIOD AND CONSULTEES**

5.1 A list of the proposed consultees is found at Annex 1 on the draft Statement of Policy (SOP).

5.2 The Proposed period of consultation is 8 weeks, commencing on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and concluding on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The intention thereafter is to bring any responses back before the GLC on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are none.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

PLEASE SEE THE COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

There are no financial implications arising as a result of the recommendations in this report.

## 9. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 Section 349 of the Act states that before each successive period of three years a council should prepare a statement of principles (policy) that they propose to apply when exercising their functions under the act and publish such a statement. Our current policy is due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019. Prior to introducing any new policy it is necessary to carry out an extensive consultation exercise on the contents of the proposed new policy. Ultimately the final adoption of any policy will be a decision for full Council.

## 10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

▶ <b>HR &amp; Organisational Development</b>	None
▶ <b>ICT / Technology</b>	None
▶ <b>Property &amp; Asset Management</b>	None
▶ <b>Risk</b>	It is imperative that we have a new Gambling policy formally adopted by the 31 <sup>st</sup> of January 2019. A failure to do this would undermine our ability to carry out our functions under the Act
▶ <b>Equality &amp; Diversity</b>	None

## 11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

## 12. APPENDICES

N/A

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