

Report to:	Council
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Meeting	25 November 2015

STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive relating to the review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the revised statement of policy and principles under the Gambling Act 2005, as recommended by the Executive.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Council is required to have a Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005. This policy must be reviewed every three years.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No, once approved the revised Statement will form part of the Council's policy framework

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

Expand and promote our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer
Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council as Licensing Authority to prepare and publish every three years a Statement of Policy which outlines the principles it will following in exercising its functions under the Act. The current policy came into effect on 31 January 2013 and is therefore due for review. The revised policy must be published on the Council's website four weeks before it comes into force no later than 3 January 2016.

5.2 At its meeting on 15 September 2015, the Licensing Committee approved a period of consultation on the statement of policy to take effect on 31 January 2016. Comments on the draft were invited until 23 October 2015, two comments were received.

5.1 The Licensing Committee considered the revised statement of licensing policy at its meeting on the 27 October 2015 and its recommendation was that the policy be approved as amended.

5.3 The Executive at its meeting on 2 November 2015 considered the recommendations of the Licensing Committee regarding the revised statement of policy and principles under the Gambling Act and recommended it to Council for approval.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX42/2015

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive for its meeting on 2 November and can be found on the Council's website using the following link:

<http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s9852/Appendix%203a%20Revised%20Draft%20gambling%20policy%202016.pdf>

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council as licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy every three years. The Act also requires the Council to have regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance when preparing its statement of policy.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 There are no Human Resources considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 To delay the review process without approving a policy to have effect from 31st January 2016 would leave the Council at risk of not having a valid policy framework in the event of an application being made under the Gambling Act 2005.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has been undertaken as required by the Gambling Act 2005.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None