

Report to:	Council
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Meeting	30 January 2018

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 10 December relating to the review of the Council's statement of policy and principles, which would be applied by the Authority when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 during the period 2019 to 2022.

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 Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council as Licensing Authority to publish a statement of the principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act every three years. The current policy took effect in 2016 therefore the Council needs to approve a new policy to take effect in January 2019.

- 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:

A decision not to revise the policy would leave the Council without a valid policy on which to base its decisions.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is “The economy – maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) requires the Council in its capacity as licensing authority to publish a statement of principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act every three years. The current policy is due to be refreshed to take effect in January 2019.

5.2 At its meeting held on 2 October 2018, the Licensing Committee considered the draft policy and recommended a period of public consultation. Consultation took place between 18 October 2018 and 30 November 2018. One response was received and no changes to the policy are proposed as a result of this response.

5.3 Further guidance on the content of policies is provided by the Gambling Commission in its document “Guidance to Local Authorities”. Local Authorities are required by section 25 Gambling Act 2005 to have regard to guidance issued by the Gambling Commission when carrying out any of its functions under the Act.

5.4 The revised policy has been prepared taking into account the requirements of the Regulations and the advice from the Gambling Commission. The main changes from the previous policy are as follows:

- 4.2 – Local Risk Assessments
- 4.3 – Local Area Profile
- 4.8 – General Standards for all gambling premises.

5.5 The Executive at its meeting on 10 December 2018 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 6(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX53

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. The costs of consultation has been met from the existing Licensing budget.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

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. This took place between 18 October 2018 and 30 November 2018.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None