

Meeting of the City Council

27 January 2016

Report title	Review of Statement of Gambling Policy	
Referring body	Licensing Committee, 20 January 2016	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Alan Bolshaw Chair of Licensing Committee	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Place	
Originating service	Licensing Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Licensing Manager 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to adopt the proposed Statement of Gambling Policy for implementation with effect from 31 January 2016.

Purpose

- 1.1 To present for consideration by Councillors the proposed Statement of Gambling Policy for implementation with effect from 31 January 2016.

Background

- 2.1 The first 'Statement of Gambling Policy' was approved and adopted by the Council on 8 November 2006 and came into effect on 31 January 2007, in accordance with section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 and guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The policy has been renewed every three years following this.
- 2.2 Licensing Authorities are required to prepare and consult upon a Statement of Gambling Policy every three years. In order to adhere to these requirements, the proposed draft policy must be in force with effect from 31 January 2016..

- 2.3 Once adopted and published a Statement of Gambling Policy shall remain in force for a period of three years. However, a Licensing Authority can review their statement from time to time and if they think it necessary in light of a review, revise the statement and publish any revision before giving it effect.
- 2.4 Later in 2016 new guidance will require the Statement of Gambling Policy to contain a local area assessment. This document will be to assist applicants by detailing the local area and highlighting issues that may be relevant to their applications.
- 2.5 It is proposed to carry out a further more fundamental review of the policy later in 2016 following the development of the local area assessment.

3.0 Draft Statement of Gambling Policy

- 3.1 Given the more fundamental review of the Statement of Gambling Policy that will be required later this year no significant changes have been made to the draft policy.
- 3.2 The only changes of note are that the content relevant to the casino process has been removed from the main policy document and the dates have been changed.
- 3.3 The draft policy is attached at Appendix A to this report.
- 3.4 Section 349 of the Gambling Act provides that the Licensing Authority shall consult with
- The chief of police
 - Persons who appear to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area
 - Persons who represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by activity resulting from the Act.
- 3.5 Given the minimal changes to the policy and the requirement to consult again later this year the Council has consulted to the minimum statutory level. No responses have been received to the consultation.
- 3.6 The consultation later in the year following the substantive review of the policy and the development of the local area assessment will follow best practice and will involve a twelve week consultation with a broad church of stakeholders.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. [TT/06012016/X]

5.0 Environmental implications

- 5.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The legal implications are included in the main body of the report. [TC/110115/N]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.