



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee

1 September 2021

Report Title:	Statement of Gambling Policy
Cabinet Portfolio	Safer, Stronger Communities
Cabinet Member	Cllr Jeanie Bell
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Lisa Harris Executive Director Place lisaharris@sthelens.gov.uk
Contact Officer	Lorraine Simpson Licensing Manager lorrainesimpson@sthelens.gov.uk

Borough priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	X
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	
	Be a responsible Council	X

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to review its Statement of Gambling Policy every three years in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee **is recommended to:**

- i) Approve the draft policy presented to committee for consultation.
- ii) Authorise the Licensing Manager to carry out the consultation in order to meet the statutory deadlines.
- iii) Authorise the Licensing Manager to return to this Committee the results of this consultation for final consideration.

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 To advise members of the statutory consultation required regarding the review of the Council's Statement of Policy pursuant to the Gambling Act 2005 and the timetable for consultation and publication of the Policy.

4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 The Council has a duty to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy that it proposes to apply when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005. The Act also requires the Council to review and re-publish its policy at least every 3 years.
- 4.2 The purpose of the policy is to clearly set out the principles that the Council propose to apply when determining licence applications, permits and registrations under the Act. Any decision the Council takes in this regard will seek to uphold the licensing objectives which are:
- Preventing crime from becoming a source of disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
 - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;

- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
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- 4.3 Minor changes from the Gambling Commission have been incorporated into the contents of this Policy however, following a complete review of the Policy in 2015, no further amendments are required.
- 4.4 Following the statutory consultation, the revised Statement of Policy will need to be published in January 2022 following approval by full Council on 19 January 2022. The revised Statement of Policy will have effect for a further 3 years, however the Council may review and alter the Statement of Policy at any time during this period should this be required. Should the Council choose to do this then this same process would apply to republish the Statement.
- 4.5 The Gambling Act requires the Licensing Authority to consult:
- The Chief Officer of Police for the area;
 - One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area;
 - One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Act.
- 4.6 The consultation period will be from 6 September to 8 October 2021 inclusive and will be published on the Council's website, with copies of direct comment requested from:

Association of British Bookmakers
 BACTA
 Betfred
 Bingo Association
 British Beer & Pub Association
 Children and Young Peoples Services
 Community representatives & Faith Groups
 Dave Pluck Racing
 Elected Members
 Existing licence holders and person with interest in premises
 GamCare
 Haydock Park Racecourse
 Hippodrome Bingo
 Ladbrokes
 Local Members of Parliament
 Local Safeguarding Board
 Mecca Bingo
 Members of the public
 Mersey Fire & Rescue Service
 St Helens & Knowsley Merseyside Magistrates Court
 Merseyside Police
 Parish Councils
 Racecourse Association Ltd
 St Helens Chamber of Trade
 St Helens Council - Head of Regeneration
 St Helens Council – Public Health
 St Helens Council – Environmental Health
 St Helens Council – Trading Standards
 St Helens Council – Equalities

St Helens Council – Policy
St Helens Council – Leadership Team.
St Helens Council for Voluntary Services
St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group
St Helens Safer Communities Service Partnership
The Gambling Commission
William Hill

4.7 The timetable for implementation of the revised Statement of Policy is as follows:

- 1 September 2021 - draft revised Statement of Policy reported to L&EP Committee;
- 6 September to 8 October 2021 - Consultation period;
- 24 November 2021 - Report final revised Statement to L&EP Committee;
- December 2021 - Report final revised Statement to CLT;
- 13 January 2022 – Report final revised Statement to Policy Cabinet;
- 19 January 2022 - Report final revised Statement to Full Council for approval;
- January 2022 - Publish notice in press and on website of publication of revised Statement;
- January 2022 - Revised Statement of Policy to take effect.

5. Community Impact Assessment

5.1 A Community Impact Assessment will be completed for consideration upon conclusion of the consultation outlined in this report.

6. Consideration of Alternatives

6.1 This is a statutory requirement in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005, therefore there are no feasible alternative proposals.

7. Conclusions

7.1 It is the recommendation of officers that members approve the draft policy and commencement of the formal consultation process.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications – The review and subsequent publication of the Policy is a statutory requirement in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications – This will be prepared following the statutory consultation.

8.3 Social Value – N/A.

8.4 Sustainability and Environment – N/A.

8.5 Health and Wellbeing – The aim of the Policy is to control effectively control gambling through application of the relevant law.

8.6 Equality and Human Rights – N/A

8.7 Customers and Resident – The requirement to publish and review the Policy is a statutory requirement to protect the public.

- 8.8 Asset and Property – N/A
- 8.9 Staffing and Human Resource – N/A
- 8.10 Risks – The Policy will manage the associated risks through application of relevant law.
- 8.11 Finance – There are no new financial implications emerging from this consultation.
- 8.12 Policy Framework Implications – The production of this Policy supports the objective of ‘Creating safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all.’

9. Background papers

- 9.1 None

10. Appendices

- 10.1 Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2022