

DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval of the Draft Statement of Principles under The Gambling Act 2005 in order that it may be circulated for consultation and a final statement can be presented to Council for approval on 14 December 2009.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005 a new regime for regulating gambling and betting came into effect on 1 September 2007.

2.2 Wirral Borough Council became the Licensing Authority responsible for granting premises licenses in Wirral in respect of:

- Betting premises
- Bingo premises
- Family entertainment centres
- Adult gaming centres
- Casino premises

2.3 The Licensing Authority also has responsibility for certain gaming machine permits, temporary use notices and occasional use notices, as well as the registration of small society lotteries.

2.4 The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to prepare and publish a statement of Licensing Principles that the Authority will apply when considering applications under the Act. A Statement of Licensing Principles was approved by Council on 18 December 2006. It is a requirement that this policy document be reviewed every three years.

2.5 A revised draft statement of Licensing Principles, attached as Appendix 1, has been prepared having regard to the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 and the Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. The draft is also in accordance with a template prepared by the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS).

2.6 A list of consultees is attached in Appendix 2.

2.7 The consultation period closes on 14 December 2009.

2.8 Members are asked to approve the draft document so that it may be circulated for the required three month consultation period.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial costs arising from the consultation process have been met from existing budgets.

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Staffing costs arising from the consultation process have been met from existing budgets.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising out of this report.

6.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Effective control of Gambling Legislation can assist in raising standards and improve the perception of community safety.

7.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Local Agenda 21 implications arising out of this report.

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no planning implications arising out of this report.

9.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising out of this report.

10.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report affects the entire Borough

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Draft Statement of Principles (Appendix 1)

11.2 List of Consultees (Appendix 2)

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That the Draft Statement of Licensing Principles be approved as a document to be consulted upon so that a final statement can be considered by Council on 14 December 2009 for approval as the Statement of Principles to be applied under The Gambling Act 2005.

12.2 That a further progress report be submitted to the Licensing Act 2003 committee meeting of 9 November 2009.

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