
Statement of Principles – Gambling Policy

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Local Member(s) and Division: Licensing & Regulatory Committee Chair – Cllr Simon Carswell

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Summary / Background

1. Somerset Council is a Licensing Authority as determined by Section 2 of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act). Section 349 of the Act requires the Licensing Authority to determine a Statement of Principles describing how it will deal with gambling issues. The statement represents a policy document and must be reviewed as necessary at intervals of at least three years. Today's report details the first step in the necessary process of establishing the draft of a single Statement of Principles in respect of Somerset Council before submitting to formal consultation, subsequent re-referral to Committee and adoption by Full Council.
2. The Statement of Principles is a key tool for the Licensing Authority to set out its priorities and objectives relating to gambling, with a strong consideration of local issues and risks in relation to the land-based regulatory responsibility placed upon it. Furthermore, the policy document is intended to offer guidance to businesses when considering making applications in Somerset.

Recommendations

3. The Committee is asked to permit the draft Statement of Principles document to be made available for consultation as required by the Gambling Act 2005.

Reasons for recommendations

4. There is a legal requirement that each Licensing Authority has in place a Statement of Principles.

Other options considered

5. Not applicable. This is a statutory requirement.

Links to Council Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

6. Not applicable. This is a statutory requirement.

Financial and Risk Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from approving this report. The Licensing Authority must have a Statement of Principles in place by legislative requirement.

Legal Implications

8. The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to determine and publish its Gambling Policy every three years. Before determining its Gambling Policy, the Council is required to consult the statutory consultees set out in the Gambling Act 2005.

HR Implications

9. None.

Other Implications:

Equalities Implications

10. None

Community Safety Implications

11. The role of the Licensing Authority includes regulation of gambling operators within its boundaries regarding operational compliance with the licensing

objectives specified in the Act. One of these objectives is “protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling”. Strong and robust assessments of local risks will, therefore, protect members of the Community who may be at risk of suffering from gambling related harm.

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

12. None.

Health and Safety Implications

13. None.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

14. The entry under “Community Safety Implications” above equally applies to this section. The consultation process will, however, allow health and welfare related agencies an opportunity to respond and for their comments to be taken into consideration by this Committee following the closure of the consultation period.

Social Value

15. Not applicable. This is a statutory requirement.

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

16. Not applicable. This is a statutory requirement.

Background Papers

17. Not applicable. This is a statutory requirement.

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Gambling Statement of Principles.