

Meeting of the Council – 4th December 2006

Report of the Cabinet

Approval of Gambling Policy

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet for the approval of the Council's revised Gambling Policy.

Background

2. The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to prepare and publish a statement of its Gambling Policy known as a Statement of Principles, every three years.
3. The draft Policy went out for consultation on the 4th July, 2006 and was endorsed by the Licensing and Safety Committee on 21st August, 2006.
4. Responses were received from the following:-
 - Area Committees of the Council
 - The British Casino Association
 - The British Beer and Pub Association
 - The Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services
 - The West Midland Fire Service
 - Blue Chip Casinos
 - The Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board
 - The Association of British Bookmakers
 - The Right Reverend David Walker, Bishop of Dudley
 - Aquarius
 - West Midlands Police

5. The Licensing and Safety Committee considered the comments made by the consultees outlined in paragraph 4 of this report and resolved to amend the Draft Gambling Policy where appropriate and to recommend approval to the Cabinet. A copy of the proposed amended Policy is in the Members Room and on the Council's Internet site. The amendments to the current Policy are highlighted in bold type script.
6. On consideration of the information contained in this report, the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 1st November, 2006, resolved to recommend the Council to approve the revised Gambling Policy.

Finance

7. The costs of publication of the Gambling Policy will be met out of the Licensing budget.

Law

8. The Gambling Act 2005 Section 349 (1)(a) and (b) requires all Local Authorities to prepare and publish a Licensing Policy.
9. The statutory consultees on that policy are set out in Section 349(3) of the Gambling Act 2005:-
 - The Chief Officer of Police
 - Representatives of persons carrying on gambling businesses.
 - Representatives of persons who are likely to be affected by or otherwise have an interest in the licensing policy.
10. The Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities, Part 6.16, suggests that the Authority should use a variety of consultation methods including meetings with gambling businesses in the Local Authority area and open forums for the public.
11. In addition, consultation with a range of organisations including faith groups, voluntary and community organisations working with children and young people, organisations working with people who are problem gamblers, medical practices or primary care trusts, consultation with businesses who are, or will be holders of a premises licence, and consultation with the organisations named as responsible authorities in the Act.

Equality Impact

12. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equality and diversity.
13. A Gambling Policy will impact equally on all racial groups.
14. A Gambling Policy will impact on children and young persons through their permitted attendance at certain categories of licensed premises.

15. There has been consultation and involvement of young people in developing this policy as part of the consultation process through the Area Committees and the Directorate of Children's Services.

Recommendation

16. That the recommendation of the Cabinet in respect of the Council's Gambling Policy be endorsed and the revised Policy be approved.

David Caunt

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL