

Licensing and Safety Committee – 12th September 2012

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Gambling Policy

Purpose of Report

1. For the Committee to consider the responses to the consultation of the Council's Gambling Policy and to recommend approval of the policy to full Council.

Background

2. The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to prepare and publish a statement of its Gambling Policy every three years.
3. The current Policy was approved by the Committee on 12th November 2009, full Council on 30th November 2009 and came into effect 14th of January 2007.
4. The Licensing Officer has produced a draft Gambling Policy. A copy of the draft policy is attached to this report at appendix 1.
5. The draft policy went out to consultation on 1st July 2012 - 30th September 2012 requesting comments by the 13th August 2012. If further comments are received, these will be brought to the Committee's attention. A list of consultees is contained within the draft Policy on page 4 and 5.
6. We have received three responses to the consultation from Royal British Legion Kingswinford, Christ Church The Lye and Stambermill and Royal British Legion Amblecote. A copy of these responses are attached to this report at Appendix 2. Any further responses to the consultation will be available at the meeting.
7. It is planned that following Committee consideration of the draft policy, it will be recommend to Cabinet on 31st October 2012, and full Council on 26th November 2012, with publication of the policy on 4th of January 2013. It is statutory that the policy must be published by 14th of January 2013.

Finance

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

Law

9. Gambling Act 2005 section 348 (1)(a) and (b) requires all Local Authorities to prepare and publish a Licensing Policy.
10. 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 or by or otherwise have an interest in the licensing policy.

Equality Impact

11. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
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 Area Committee and the Directorate of Children's Services.
16. This application falls within the Council's responsibility for licensing as a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Recommendation

17. That the Licensing and Safety Committee considers the responses to the consultation of the Council's Gambling Policy and recommends approval of the Policy to full Council.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers

Gambling Act 2005

Gambling Commission Guidance to the Gambling Act

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Gambling Policy

Responses to the Consultation of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's Gambling Policy