

GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATMENT OF PRINCIPLES

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Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 Revised Statement of Principles

Summary

To recommend the Council adopt the revised Statement of Principles made under the Gambling Act 2005

Recommendation

The Council is asked to:

Adopt the revised Statement of Principles attached at Appendix 1 in accordance with the decision of the of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 10 March 2026.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005, local licensing authorities must publish a Statement of Principles every 3 years. This document guides local decision-making on regulating local gambling operations, ensuring all decisions uphold the three statutory licensing objectives.
- 1.2 The current Statement of Licensing Principles has passed its renewal date and a new policy must be adopted. This is a statutory requirement, and as such there is no alternative option.

2 Background

- 2.1 A public consultation on a draft policy ran from Monday 27 October 2025 until Sunday 18 January 2026. On 10 March 2026 the LPPC agreed to amend the draft Statement of Policy in light of the consultation responses, and recommend Council adopt the updated Statement of Policy.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 The Act requires the licensing authority to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as the authority think it is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives-

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime or 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

3.1.2 These objectives are central to the proposed Statement of Principles, and ensure that the Council as Licensing Authority fulfils its statutory duties with respect to Equality, Crime & Disorder, and Safeguarding.

3.1.3 It is not considered that a separate Equality Impact Assessment is necessary.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Under the Act, the Council has the power to recover its costs and set fees and charges at such a level that the licensing process is cost neutral to the Council. The financial implications associated with the revision of the Statement of Principles can be financed from the Licensing budget.

4.2 **Section 24 considerations:** None identified.

4.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council must approve and publish its revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles in order to undertake its role as a Licensing Authority.

- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) requires all Licensing Authorities to prepare and publish a statement of licensing principles every three years. In exercising their functions under s153 (1) of the Act a Licensing Authority must have regard to the legislative requirements of the Act and the statement published by the Licensing Authority under section 349 of the Act. Failure to have an up-to-date Gambling Licensing Policy would mean that the Licensing Authority was in breach of legislation and would be open to challenge in relation to the exercise of its functions under the Act. The Statement of Gambling Policy is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and therefore final approval is a matter reserved for Full Council.'

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- Opportunity & Prosperity: Boosting the local economy, supporting high streets
 - Safe & Well: Ensuring a safe environment and supporting community health.
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None identified.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None identified.
- 6.5 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** As a result of the Local Government Reorganisation, shadow authorities should make reasonable efforts to prepare a new Statement of Licensing policy, but if this is not completed before 1 April 2027, then they must be completed by 31 March 2029. Between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2029 the previous policy that had been adopted by the predecessor authority and applied to that area will continue to remain applicable.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee - Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 7.30 pm](#)

Council
21 July 2026

- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee - Tuesday, 10th March 2026 7.30 pm](#)

Other papers:

- None