

## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**2 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's approval to revise the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy and to begin the consultation process

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to have in place a Policy relating to the carrying out of its functions under that Act. In respect of carrying out its duties the Council is required to adopt and have in place a Statement of Gambling Policy relating to those duties. The policy sets out the principles which the Council will apply in considering and granting licences under the Act
- 2.2 The Act requires the policy to be reviewed every three years. The current policy was adopted in January 2019 and therefore needs to be reviewed before January 2022.

#### **3.0 Introduction**

- 3.1 There have been no fundamental changes to legislation that would require wholesale amendments the draft Statement of Gambling Policy. The Council is also required to formulate its policy with reference to guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. This guidance has been amended and the draft policy reflects these changes.
- 3.2 Gambling premises are required to undertake a local risk assessment for their operation and to include as a minimum:
  - the location of services for children such as schools, playgrounds, leisure/community centres and other areas where children will gather;
  - the demographics of the area in relation to vulnerable groups;
  - whether the premises is in an area subject to high levels of crime and/or disorder;
  - local risk assessments should show how vulnerable people, including people with gambling dependencies are protected.
- 3.2 In order to achieve a level of consistency across the County the Nottinghamshire Authorities have been working together on a joint format for the Statement. Members will appreciate that the Councils across the County are different and therefore it is not always possible to have identical documents, however, wherever possible attempts have been made to apply consistent phraseology.
- 3.3 A copy of the 2022 draft Statement of Gambling Policy is attached as **Appendix One** (to follow). A large font has been used to identify where changes are proposed.
- 3.4 There have been no fundamental changes to any of the policies previously agreed.

3.5 Any comments that Members of the Committee wish to make before the policy is sent out for consultation can be included in the proposed revision.

#### **4.0 Proposals**

4.1 It is proposed to undertake an extensive consultation exercise by directing organisations to the Council's website where a copy of the draft Policy will be posted. Printed copies will be available on request. It is proposed that the consultation period will last for five weeks.

4.2 The list of consultees is set out in Appendix One of the policy. This includes the Responsible Authorities, gambling charities, trade organisations and premises holding a gambling licence within Newark and Sherwood.

#### **5.0 Equalities Implications**

5.1 An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken following the consultation period.

#### **6.0 Digital Implications**

6.1 No implications from this report

#### **7.0 Financial Implications (FIN21-22/6760)**

7.1 No financial implications from this report.

#### **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee notes the requirement that the Gambling Policy be reviewed and provides any additional comments that it would wish to see in the draft policy.**

#### Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty on 01636 6554675467

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