

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
17TH JULY 2009

Statement of Gambling Policy

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Director of Planning and Regulatory Services
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1 – Statement of Gambling Policy (Draft 1)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a report on the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **To note that consultation has begun on the 1st July 2009 in the district on the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy until 30th September 2009.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Gambling Act 2005 provides a regulatory system to govern the provisions of all gambling in Great Britain, other than the National Lottery and spread betting.
- 3.2 The Act grants powers to license gambling premises within the district as well as undertaking functions in relation to lower stake gaming machines and clubs.

4. LICENSING OBJECTIVES

4.1 The Gambling Act contains three licensing objectives, which underpin the function that the Commission and Licensing Authorities will perform. These objectives are central to the new regulatory regime created by the Act. They are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and 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.

4.2 The Licensing Authority is required to prepare, every three years, a Statement of Gambling Policy, which it proposes to apply, and must publish the statement.

4.3 The current Statement expires in 2009 and a new one must replace it by 31st January 2010.

4.4 The new draft Statement of Gambling Policy has been written in conjunction with the Licensing Officers representing all districts within the county.

4.5 Full consultation will be made with the following stakeholders:

- The Chief Police Officer for the District
- Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service
- Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
- Persons who appear to the Licensing Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the Wyre Forest Area
- Persons who appear to the Licensing Authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the Authority's functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Fees for gambling have been published within the Council Service Income Options. There are no other considerations.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Statement of Gambling Policy is a statutory document, which must be in place by 31st January 2010.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 To note that consultation has begun on the 1st July 2009 in the district on the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy until 30th September 2009.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Director of Legal and Corporate Services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities

10.2 Gambling for Local Authorities by Phillip Kolvin