

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Statement of Gambling Policy**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Director of Planning and Regulatory Services
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix 1 - Draft Gambling Policy Appendix 2 - Stakeholder Comments on Draft Gambling Policy 2010

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

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

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council**

- 2.1 The Draft Statement of Gambling Policy for the Wyre Forest District be approved following consultation with relevant stakeholders (Appendix 1)**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Gambling Act 2005 gave effect to the Government's proposals for reform of the law of gambling. The Act contains a new regulatory system to govern the provisions of all gambling in Great Britain, other than the National Lottery and spread betting. It received the Royal Assent on 7th April 2005.

- 3.2 From 2007 Licensing Authorities were granted powers to license gambling premises within their area as well as undertaking functions in relation to lower stake gaming machines and clubs and miners welfare institutes. The Act also provides for a new system of temporary use notices. These will authorise premises that are not licensed generally for gambling purposes to be used for certain types of gambling for limited periods.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

4. 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 and;
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The current statement expires in 2009 and a new one must replace it by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010.
- 4.3 The new draft Statement of Gambling Policy has been written in conjunction with the Licensing Officers representing all districts within the county.
- 4.4 This matter was considered by the Licensing and Environmental Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 when authority was granted to begin consultation until September 2009.
- 4.5 The consultation process has now been completed with the following:
  - The Chief Police Officer for the District
  - The Fire and Rescue Authority for Hereford and Worcester
  - Child Protection Planning and Review Unit of Worcestershire County Council
  - 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 person who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Gambling Act 2005
  - Featured on the Council Web Page
- 4.6 Seven responses were received within the consultation period. Most replies were complimentary, but some replies were deemed irrelevant to be included within the Draft Gambling Policy (see Appendix 2 for these comments on the Draft Gambling Policy).

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Current estimated costs of the service have been budgeted for in 2010/2011

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The views of these bodies should be given proper weight when the policy is determined.
- 6.2 Beyond the statutory requirements it is for each licensing authority to decide the full extent of its consultation but should have due regard to cost and time.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

**8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The Statement of Gambling Policy is a statutory document, which the Council must have in place by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

**9. CONSULTEES**

- 9.1 Director of Legal and Corporate Services

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Guidance Notes