



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	Licensing Committee: Tuesday 19 October 2021
Report Number	Agenda Item No. 5
Subject	REVIEW OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for Environment Email: norman.macrae@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Michelle Bignell, Service Leader (Licensing) Tel: 01285 623000 Email: michelle.bignell@publicagroup.uk
Summary	To consider any issues raised in the consultation with stakeholders and the public on the Council's Draft Revised Gambling Act 2005 Licensing Policy Statement and consider amendments to the Policy prior to adoption.
Annexes	Annex A – Revised Statement of Principles Annex B – Current WODC Policy
Recommendations	a) That the Committee considers the comments made during the consultation period and makes the appropriate recommendation to the Council in relation to the adoption of the Council's revised Statement of Principles; and b) That the Council continues to adopt a “no- casino resolution” for inclusion in the published Gambling Act 2005 Licensing Policy Statement
Corporate priorities	A Vibrant District Economy Strong Local Communities
Key Decision	N/A
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	The revised policy was subject to a 12 week consultation period which came to an end on the 27 September 2021.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council is required by the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) to publish a Gambling Policy (Licensing Policy Statement) and review the policy every three years. The current statement was approved by the Licensing Committee on 2 October 2018 and formally adopted on 31 January 2019 (attached as Annex B to the report).
- 1.2 The Licensing Committee considered the draft policy at its meeting in May 2021 and agreed that it should be put out to formal consultation.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The revised policy was subject to a 12 week consultation period which came to an end on the 27 September 2021.
- 2.2 The only change made was the removal of a reference to shared partnership working so that the draft document is solely for West Oxfordshire District Council and the revised policy is attached at Annex A to the report.
- 2.3 Information about the consultation period was on the Council's web site. The Gambling Act Responsible Authorities, Elected Members, Parish Councils with betting premises in their area, and representatives of the trade and industry were also consulted.
- 2.4 No consultation responses were received.
- 2.5 S.166(1) of the Act states that a Licensing Authority may resolve not to issue casino premises licences. Such a recommendation was made by the Licensing Committee at its meeting held on 15 October 2012 and subsequently approved by the Council on 24 October 2012. Notwithstanding all the Casinos have been allocated by Central Government, S.166(3) of the Act states that this resolution expires after three years and the Council needs formally to re-affirm at this time that a "no-casino resolution" is still in place.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. None

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1. Subject to legal requirements, the Committee may choose to make recommendations on specific sections of the policy, as they see fit.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1. Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities April 2021.