

**TITLE OF REPORT: Gambling Statement of Principles 2022-2025****REPORT OF: Peter Udall, Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet to approve and recommend to Council a Gambling Statement of Principles for 2022 – 2025 in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

**Background**

2. Under the Gambling Act 2005 licensing authorities are required to prepare and publish every three years a Statement of Principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions.
3. The Act contains three licensing objectives, which underpin the functions that the Gambling Commission and Councils perform. These objectives are:
  - 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; and
  - protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;
4. On the 14 September 2021 Cabinet gave approval for a widespread public consultation on a draft revised Statement of Principles. Consultees included all Members and MPs, all responsible authorities under the Gambling Act including Northumbria Police, HMRC and the Gambling Commission, the Director of Public Health and all those in Gateshead holding an authorisation under the Gambling Act. The consultation took place between 4 October and 12 November 2021.
5. The responses to the consultation were considered by a Policy Advisory Group on 19 November 2021 and advice was given as to how the draft statement should be amended. Notes from the meeting are attached in Appendix 2.
6. An Executive Summary of the Statement of Principles is attached in Appendix 3 and the full document is attached at Appendix 4.

**Proposal**

7. Cabinet is asked to approve the amended statement of principles and recommend it to Council.

## **Recommendations**

8. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to adopt and agree to the publication of the amended Gambling Statement of Principles as set out in Appendix 4, in accordance with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005,

For the following reason:

To ensure that the Council's functions under the Gambling Act 2005 can be discharged effectively.

### **Policy Context**

1. The adoption of the Statement of Principles will allow the Council to carry out its duties as a Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005 and in accordance with guidance issued to local authorities by the Gambling Commission in April 2021. The Statement of Principles plays an important role in realising Gateshead's vision of making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.

### **Background**

2. The Gambling Act 2005 was fully implemented in September 2007. It transferred the responsibility for the licensing of gaming premises from the Magistrates to Local Authorities and introduced for the first time, a unified regulator for gambling, the Gambling Commission, replacing the Gaming Board for Great Britain.
3. Under the Act, the Council is responsible for issuing premises licences for casinos, bingo halls, betting offices, adult gaming centres and licensed family entertainment centres as well as permits for gaming and gaming machines and registering small society lotteries.
4. The Act contains three licensing objectives, which underpin the functions that the Gambling Commission and Councils perform. These objectives are:
  - 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; and
  - protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;
5. Licensing authorities are required to prepare and publish, every three years, a Statement of the Principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions. In preparing such a statement, licensing authorities must follow the procedure set out in the Act as well as the accompanying guidance. The first statement was published in January 2007, with subsequent statements published every three years.

### **Consultation**

6. The Statement of Gambling Principles has been produced following a wide consultation process. A draft statement was produced in accordance with the requirements of the Guidance, in consultation with all relevant groups and services within the Council and was circulated for public consultation during a six week period between 4 October and 12 November 2021.
7. Four responses to the consultation were received, and a Policy Advisory Group considered these on 19 November 2021. The advice given by the Policy Advisory Group is attached in Appendix 2.
8. An Executive Summary of the Statement of Gambling Principles is attached at

Appendix 3.

9. Consultation has also been undertaken with Portfolio holders for Environment & Transport and The Leader and Deputy Leader in preparing this report.

### **Alternative Options**

10. No alternative options are considered appropriate as the Licensing Authority has a statutory duty under the Gambling Act 2005 to prepare and publish a statement of its principles at this time.

### **Implications of Recommended Option**

#### **11. Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from the recommended options.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising from the recommended options

12. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no risk management implications arising from the recommended options.

13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - an Equality Impact and Needs Assessment of the policy has indicated a neutral impact.

14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from the recommended options

15. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from the recommended options

16. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from the recommended options.

17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from the recommended options

18. **Ward Implications** - This report affects all wards equally.

### **Background Information**

19. Gambling Act 2005  
Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities April 2021