

Blaby District Council
Licensing & Regulatory Committee

Date of Meeting 7 February 2022
Title of Report **3 Year Review of Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles**
Report Author Environmental Services Manager

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 A review of the Council's Statement of Principles is required under the Gambling Act 2005 every 3 years. The current Statement of Principles expires on 31st March 2022.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to recommend minor amendments to the current Statement of Principles.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the draft Statement of Principles 2022 - 2025 as attached at Appendix A to this report be agreed and adopted.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 It is appropriate that members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee review the Statement of Principles 2022-2025 prior to its adoption by Council.
- 3.2 This is to ensure that any last minute amendments can be incorporated into the final Statement, prior to it being published, with the aim that it takes effect from 1st April 2022.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

Under the Gambling Act 2005 the Licensing Authority is required to publish a Statement of Principles every three years, outlining the procedures it intends to follow in discharging its statutory responsibilities under the Act. The Council approved its existing Statement of Principles in 2019.

The Gambling Commission gives guidance on the preparation of Statements of Principles together with details on the consultation process, which must be followed. The current guidance has been taken into consideration when reviewing this statement of principles.

The reviewed Statement of Principles outlines how the Licensing Authority will exercise its functions under the Act in the grant, issue, administration and enforcement of licences, permits and registrations.

Given that there has been no significant changes to the legislation or relevant guidance, only minor changes in the draft Statement of Principles 2022-2025 have been made from the current Statement of Principles.

However, it is worth noting the recent work undertaken by GambleAware and YouGov to map the prevalence of problem gambling severity in each local authority and ward areas.

The mapping data, attached as Appendix B in this report, identified two key themes for the District:

- That the District of Blaby has a low degree of problem gamblers (second lowest data set out of 5)
- Those persons who do consider themselves to have a gambling problem seek support, and moreover, make use of the help and support when it is provided (third highest data set out of 9)

As a result, this data suggest that no further risk-based approach needs to be taken regarding the Council's Gambling Statement of Principles at this time.

What the data may assist with, is any subsequent communication strategy moving forwards i.e. understanding which areas of the District to focus help and support towards specifically for areas where problem gambling is an issue.

Should such data form part of legislative or guidance changes in the future, or if other risks are identified, the Council have the ability to review its Statement of Principles at any time.

4.2 Relevant Consultations

A consultation exercise was commenced on 22nd December 2021 and ran for 4 weeks finishing on 19th January 2022. The Authority issued correspondence detailing the consultation process to interested parties/bodies and agencies. A list of those consulted can be referred to in Appendix A, Part D.

In addition, a link was placed on the public consultation page of the Council's website. This allowed those wishing to be involved with the consultation to submit comments electronically.

No comments were received from consultees during the consultation period.

4.3 Proposal(s)

That the draft Statement of Principles 2022-2025 as attached at Appendix A to this report be agreed and adopted.

4.4 Significant Issues

Legal Implications:

The Authority is required to review its Statement of Principles every 3 years as a statutory requirement under the Gambling Act 2005.

Crime & Disorder:

The prevention of gambling being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime, or being used to support crime is a licensing objective under the Gambling Act 2005. All decisions are made with a view to promoting the licensing objectives

There are no significant issues, relating to Human Rights, Human Resources, Equalities and Public Health Inequalities.

5. **What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

5.1 None

6. **What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

6.1 None

7. **Other options considered**

7.1 The Licensing Authority has no other option but to review its Statement of Principles every 3 years as it is a statutory requirement of the Gambling Act 2005.

8. Other significant issues

- 8.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.
- 8.2 Significant issues relating to Legal Matters and Crime and Disorder have been addressed at paragraph 4.4.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Draft Statement of Principles 2022-2025
- 9.2 Appendix B – Problem Gambling Mapping by LA and Wards

10. Background paper(s)

Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities>

11. Report author's contact details

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