



Report for:	Licensing, Health & Safety and Enforcement Committee
Date of meeting:	10th September 2024
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Review of Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles
Contact:	Sally Mcdonald – Licensing Manager, Legal and Democratic Services
Purpose of report:	To advise members of the legal requirement to review/refresh the Council’s Statement of Principles in accordance with the provisions set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and seek authorisation to commence consultation.
Recommendations	That officers commence consultation with responsible authorities, representatives of licence-holders and other persons on the proposed revisions to the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, and report the results to a future meeting of the Committee.
Corporate objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, safe and enjoyable environment • Delivering an efficient and modern council • Building strong and vibrant Communities • Ensuring economic growth and prosperity
Implications:	<u>Financial / Value for Money / Risk / Health & Safety</u> None arising.
Consultees:	This is a pre-consultation report. If the recommendation is approved, the results of public consultation will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Background papers:	Draft Statement of Principles 2025-2028 Annex A Dacorum Local Area Profile Annex B Current Statement of Principles 2022-2025
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Non-remote gambling activities such as betting, prize gaming (including bingo and poker), provision of gaming machines and promotion of lotteries under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) is one of the major regulatory regimes under which the Council has statutory responsibilities.
- 1.2. The Act requires licensing authorities (district/borough councils or unitary authorities) to publish a written policy, setting out how they intend to exercise the licensing and enforcement powers conveyed to them, the principles that they will follow, and their expectations of licensees. The policy must be periodically reviewed, so as to ensure that they reflect the current legislation, and are relevant to the issues arising in the authority's area.
- 1.3. Dacorum last reviewed its policy in 2021(commencement January 2022) and it is due for review and replacement by January 2025, in order to satisfy the statutory requirements in the Act, which requires that this is done every 3 years.
- 1.4. The most recent update to statutory guidance was in April 2023, but this only consisted of formatting within the document and not changes to content. Therefore, revisions this time are limited to dates, and corrections to figures and hyperlinks if required.
- 1.5. The Committee are asked to approve consultation on the revised policy. The Act specifies a number of requirements for consultation on policy change, including lists of the categories of people who should be consulted, and the consultation on the revised policies will be carried out with regard to these requirements, and to the Government's consultation principles.
- 1.6. The final decision to adopt or revise a Gambling Statement of Principles policy under the Act must be made by Full Council. Following consultation, the Committee will be asked to resolve to recommend the adoption of the revised policy (with any additional revisions after considering the consultation responses) by the Council later this year.
- 1.7. The adopted Statement of Principles must be published at least 4 weeks before it comes into effect.

2. CHANGES TO STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING ACT 2005)

- 2.1. There have not been any significant changes made as part of this review of the Statement of Principles. The Gambling Commission had previously

advised that the Guidance for local authorities was unlikely to be updated in time for local policy statements to be reviewed due to a number of consultations that had been carried out. This remains the case. Once revised guidance has been published these revisions can be included in a refreshed policy statement within the three year timescale.

- 2.2. Currently Hertfordshire County Council is undertaking a review of a piece of work entitled "Hertfordshire Gambling-related Harms Strategy" outlining their approach to tackling problem gambling and the harm it causes to gamblers and others affected by it, and offering prevention and support strategies. The consultation closes on 22nd September 2024, and its findings as far as they relate to our policies will be incorporated into the Statement of Principles at its next review.
- 2.3. The full statutory guidance is 198 pages, so has not been included with this report, but is available at [Guidance to licensing authorities \(gamblingcommission.gov.uk\)](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance-to-licensing-authorities), This includes a list of changes that were checked for inclusion in our policy at the time of the 2021 review.
- 2.4. A six week consultation period is proposed, and the results of this consultation will be brought back to the Committee later in the year.
- 2.5. The updated draft Statement of Principles and Local Area Profile are attached as Appendix A.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. That officers commence consultation with responsible authorities, representatives of licence-holders and other persons on the proposed revisions to the Council's Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, and report the results to a future meeting of the Committee.**