



Report of Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Licensing Committee	20 November 2018	All wards

Delete as appropriate:		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Gambling Policy 2019-2022

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005, the Council is required to publish a gambling policy setting out how it will regulate gambling premises in the borough every three years.
- 1.2 Our current gambling policy expires in 2019 and we need to publish a new three-year policy. The current policy has been reviewed and updated with greater emphasis being placed on using local area profiles to influence decisions about licence applications. The proposed draft three-year policy is attached as appendix A.
- 1.3 The draft policy will be subject to public consultation starting in November 2018 and the new policy must be adopted by Council in 2019.
- 1.4 At the same time as adopting the Gambling Policy the council will need to renew its resolution to not issue any casino licences in the next three years.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the draft Gambling Policy 2019-2022 in appendix 1

3. Background

3.1 Context

The number of licenced gambling premises in Islington has remained relatively static over the last 5 years. The borough currently hosts 55 betting shops, 5 adult gaming centres, 30 pubs providing gaming machines, 2 members clubs licenced to provide gambling activities and track betting at Emirates Stadium.

3.2 The last new gambling premises licence application submitted to the council was in 2015 but the premises did not have planning permission. The newest gambling premises to open in Islington was a betting shop in 2013.

3.3 Regulation of gambling activities is shared with the Gambling Commission with Local Authorities being responsible for licensing premises used for licenced gambling activities and small scale lotteries and the Gambling Commission taking responsibility for all other matters including licensing gambling operators, setting maximum stakes and providing statutory guidance and standards.

3.4 Gambling Policy

The purpose of the Gambling Policy is intended to explain to businesses and residents how we intend to regulate premises using for gambling and our approach to dealing with applications for new gambling premises licences.

3.5 As a Licensing Authority we are required to review and publish our Gambling Policy every three years. Previous statutory guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to Local Authorities on Licensing Policies have expressly stated that the aim should be to permit licenced gambling premises however there is now widespread recognition that gambling can be harmful to some people and some communities. As a result, the statutory guidance has been amended and we are now able to consider local area profiles and local area risk assessments when making decisions about new applications.

3.6 The proposed draft policy summarises local area profile data and maps out areas of the borough where there is a higher risk of gambling related health harms, risks and crime.

3.7 Operators applying for a new premises licence are expected to

- undertake a local risk assessment
- consider the local area profile
- propose appropriate

3.8 When making decisions about new gambling premises applications the Licensing Authority will now be able to consider

- The applicant's local risk assessment
- The local area profiles
- Any additional mitigation measures proposed by the operator to minimise the risk of gambling related harm

3.9 These new considerations are will provided the Licensing Committee with a more comprehensive framework for making decisions about new gambling premises applications.

3.10 We will consult on the draft policy for 8 weeks from the end of November and consider all feedback received before proposing a final draft policy for adoption by Council. We will also consult on the continuance of not accepting applications for casino licences for the life of the policy.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The cost associated with policy development and consultation will be met from existing budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications:

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires licensing authorities to prepare and publish a gambling policy every three years. The licensing authority may review and alter their statement of policy at any time during the three-year timeframe.

The gambling policy must be produced following consultation and where the policy is reviewed and changes proposed, licensing authorities must consult on any revision.

The Gambling Act 2005 requires that any resolution not to issue casino licences must be published in the licensing authority's gambling policy. The policy should state how the authority has taken this decision.

The approval of the gambling policy can only be exercised by full Council.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no negative environmental impacts arising from the adoption of a Gambling Policy and the 'no casino' resolution.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment was completed on 8th November 2018 and attached as Appendix 2. This is a summary of the findings:

- a) There are positive equality impacts arising from the policy
 - The new policy will enable the Licensing Committee to consider the gambling risk index for the local area when making decisions about new application
 - This approach should reduce inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.

- b) There are no safeguarding risks arising from policy
- c) There are no potential Human Rights breaches arising from the policy
- d) There are no key actions to be taken as a result of the Residents Impact Assessment

5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 The draft Gambling Policy presented will ensure that the council as the licensing authority is able to make decisions that fully reflect the locality.

Appendices

- 1. Draft Licensing Policy (not exempt)
- 2. Resident Impact Assessment (not exempt)

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Service Director (Public Protection)

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Report Author: Janice Gibbons
Tel: 020 7527 3212
Email: Janice.gibbons@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Steve Abbott
Tel: 020 7527 2369
Email: Steve.abbott@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Marina Lipscomb
Tel: 020 7527 3314
Email: Marina.lipscomb@islington.gov.uk