

## Gambling Act 2005 – Public Consultation on Policy

Date: 17 September 2024

Report of: Chief Officer Elections & Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

Every three years the Council is required by the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) to review the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy (policy), and to consult upon any changes. The three yearly annual review is due this year.

Officers have worked with partners across the Council to review the policy. The draft policy has been presented to the public for consultation in line with the requirements of the Act. It elicited three responses. A consultation report has been produced detailing the amendments to the policy following initial review and the public consultation.

Having reviewed the responses, the policy is now presented to Licensing Committee for information. The same documents will be presented to Scrutiny Board, Executive Board and Council under the Budget and Policy Framework.

### Recommendations

- a) That Licensing Committee note the contents of the report.

## What is this report about?

- 1 Every three years the Council is required by the Gambling Act 2005 to review the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy, and to consult upon any changes. The three yearly annual review is due this year.
- 2 Officers have worked with partners across the Council to review the policy. The draft policy has been presented to the public for consultation in line with the requirements of the Act. It elicited three responses. A consultation report (Appendix 1) has been produced detailing the amendments to the Policy following initial review and the public consultation.
- 3 The amended policy (Appendix 2) has been presented to Scrutiny Board for comment before being presented to Executive Board and Council under the Budget and Policy Framework.
- 4 The purpose of this report is to advise Licensing Committee that the review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy is underway with the public consultation having taken place and to note the responses provided to the public consultation and any subsequent amendments to the Licensing Policy. The Budget and Policy Framework ensures that this Policy receives the proper consultation, scrutiny and clearances at all levels before adoption.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 This report presents the draft Licensing Policy at Appendix 1. The consultation report, including a summary of changes is at Appendix 2. As this report is advisory, there is no impact at this stage.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 In Leeds, gambling harms is regarded as a matter of public health, and this has been the case since partnership working to address gambling related harms. Public Health co-lead on the partnership working arrangements and project delivery in the city and continue to provide advice, support, and evidence to guide possible interventions to reduce gambling harms.
- 7 When compared to other local areas the work to address gambling-related harms in the city is well developed. The Leeds approach has been recognised nationally including by both the Local Government Association and the Gambling Commission and is a key reason for the city now hosting two treatment services (the NHS Northern Gambling Service and Leeds Community Gambling Service) in the city.
- 8 Leeds City Council's Public Health and Financial Inclusion teams co-lead partnership working arrangements, treatment service liaison and project delivery. Entertainment Licensing lead on the licensing of physical gambling premises, enforcement of these same premises and lobbying through the Local Government Association and liaison with the Gambling Commission.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: all

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 9 The draft Policy has been shared with partner organisations working with the council's Gambling Harm Group, but up to this point the input has been predominantly with Public Health and Financial Inclusion.
- 10 The policy has been subject to a 4 week public consultation with the people and organisations required by the legislation. Briefly these comprise of businesses and people affected by the proposals. As part of this consultation the council's Gambling Harm Group, all ward members, all Members of Parliament, support organisations, and all licensed premises have been consulted. In addition the consultation was advertised on the council website.
- 11 The public consultation had three responses from Betting and Gaming Council, Gamcare and Talarius/Luxury Leisure. The council's response to these comments is provided in the consultation report. The policy has been amended in licence with the responses.

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 12 No resource implications for the authority have been identified.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 13 There are no issues relating to risk management identified.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 14 There are no legal implications in relation to this report. The review of the policy is subject to the Budget and Policy Framework and therefore will be presented to Scrutiny Board as a matter of course. As such there is no call-in process.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 15 This is a statutory process set out in the Gambling Act 2005. Therefore options are limited. Council could decide not to adopt the policy, in which case the existing policy would expire and there would be no new policy to replace it. However this risk is low as the Budget and Policy Framework ensures that all interested parties, and all formal committees have been consulted and provided with opportunities to feed into the process.

### **How will success be measured?**

- 16 Publication of an approved policy on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

- 17 The current policy was adopted by Council in November 2021, came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and expires on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- 18 The approval of the policy is a matter for full Council. The approval process follows the Budget and Policy Framework. The suggested timescale for approval is as follows:

Scrutiny Board	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Licensing Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Executive Board	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Council	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2024

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy
- Appendix 2 – Consultation Report

## **Background papers**

- None