



COUNCIL – 17TH NOVEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

-
- 1.1 The attached report, which informs Members of the result of consultation carried out to review the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy, was considered by the Licensing Committee on 24th September 2015, prior to its presentation to Council.
 - 1.2 The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Licensing Authority to prepare, consult upon and approve a Statement of Licensing Policy that must be reviewed every three years. The current Policy was approved by Council and published in January 2013.
 - 1.3 In reviewing the Policy, the Authority has consulted with relevant bodies and individuals and invited comments from residents and businesses throughout the county borough. No responses have been received arising from the consultation process. Regard has been given to legislative changes, together with the Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and reflected in the revised Policy (as appended to the report). Revisions of note included the updating of the Equalities section to reflect the introduction of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measures 2011, together with a requirement for operators to conduct risk assessments to identify local risks to the licensing objectives and ensure that appropriate procedures and control measures are in place to mitigate those risks.
 - 1.4 Collaboration has also been undertaken with neighbouring authorities, comprising of the Gwent Licensing Forum, in developing the revised Policy, which address common themes affecting all authorities (but not local issues or considerations particular to each authority). Members were advised that an issue had been raised in respect of online gambling but this is not in the Council's remit to address.
 - 1.5 Following consideration of the report, the Licensing Committee unanimously recommended to Council that for the reasons contained therein, the revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy be approved.
 - 1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Licensing Committee on 24th September 2015 – Agenda Item 6