

# Licensing Committee

31 October 2018



<b>Title</b>	Gambling Act Policy 2019 – 2022 Draft for consultation		
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a decision		
<b>Report Author</b>	Rob Thomas		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Daxa Patel	<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Clean and Safe Environment		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Licensing Committee is asked to approve the revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2019 – 2022 for consultation in accordance with the timetable specified in this report.</b>		
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	<b>Statutory requirement under the Gambling Act 2005.</b>		

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 Spelthorne must review its Statement of Gambling Policy at least every three years. The current policy will therefore need to be revised this year, and the revised version must be published by 3 January 2019 to be brought into effect by 31 January 2019.
- 1.2 Before a revised policy can be published Spelthorne must consult with certain stakeholders such as Surrey Police, gambling businesses and other organisations affected by gambling activities. There is discretion to consult more widely and the list of organisations and groups that will be consulted are contained in Annex 2 of the draft policy.
- 1.3 The written consultation will allow 4 weeks for responses. The proposed timescale as outlined in this report will achieve this recommendation.
- 1.4 The draft policy has been amended in respect of changes to statutory guidance and codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission since the current policy came into effect in 2016.
- 1.5 Further guidance was also issued by the Gambling Commission in September 2016 on casinos, bingo and betting premises, which has also been included in the draft policy (bar the detail on casinos).
- 1.6 A copy of the draft policy is attached at Appendix 1. The proposed amendments are highlighted for ease of reference. They are also required to be left in for consultation to enable consultees to easily identify changes being made.
- 1.7 It should be noted that functions in relation to the three year policy statement cannot be delegated and remain functions of the Council.

## **2. Options analysis and proposal**

- 2.1 The preferred option is for Licensing Committee to approve the draft policy so that it can go out to consultation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with the timetable set out in this report.
- 2.2 There is an option for Licensing Committee to amend the policy. However if the Committee decides on the latter course of action this may cause a delay in starting the consultation process and implementation of the policy beyond the required time limit. In any event, suggested amendments can be dealt with by way of a consultation response. All councillors will be sent a link to the consultation and draft policy as part of the consultation.
- 2.3 Licensing Committee is asked to approve the revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2016 – 2019 for consultation.

## **3. Financial implications.**

- 3.1 The costs of revising the policy and the consultation exercise will be met within existing budgets.

## **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1 In revising the policy and conducting the required consultation the Council will meet the requirements of the 2005 Act.

## **5. Timetable for implementation**

- 5.1 The proposed timetable is as follows:
  - Report to Licensing Committee on 31 October 2018 to obtain approval to consult on the revised draft policy.
  - Consult with stakeholders between 1 November 2018 and 28 November 2018.
  - Report to Licensing Committee on 5 December 2018 to seek a recommendation to adopt a final proposed policy.
  - Recommendation to Council on 13 December 2018 to adopt the final proposed policy.
  - Publish updated policy and add to Spelthorne's website by 3 January 2019 to take effect from 31 January 2019.

**Background papers: There are none**

## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Spelthorne's Gambling Act Policy 2019 – 2022 (draft for consultation)