

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 08 January 2018

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Health and Public Protection
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to Government Consultation on Proposals for Changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Planning and Regulation
<b>Strategy/Policy:</b>	
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	A Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work

**Purpose:**

To seek approval for the Council's consultation response in relation to the Government Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and social responsibility measures.

**Executive summary:**

The Gambling Act 2005 was established in October 2005 and came into force in stages up to 1 September 2007. The Act established the Gambling Commission as the Independent regulator of operators and made provision for Local Authorities to regulate gambling premises. The Act has now been in force for 10 years and in that time, there have been significant changes to the gambling market and the understanding of harm across the gambling landscape has become better understood.

The Government is consulting on proposed changes in order to look across the industry and determine what changes, if any, are needed to strike the right balance between socially responsible growth and the protection of consumers and the communities they live in. At its meeting of 28 November 2017, the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee recommended a draft response to the consultation to the Executive for approval, this is attached as Appendix A to this report.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) considers the draft response to the consultation set out in Appendix A; and
- (b) subject to any amendments, approves the draft response so that the Council may formally respond to this consultation.

**Reason:**

In order to influence the Government to help ensure any changes to the legislation better protects the residents of Fareham from the harmful effects that gambling can have.

**Cost of proposals:**

There are no financial implications for the Council in respect of this report.

**Appendices:**

**A:** Draft Consultation Response

**B :** Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Committee 28 November 2017

**Background papers: None**

**Reference papers: None**

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	08 January 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Response to Government Consultation on Proposals for Changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Planning and Regulation
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Health and Public Protection

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Gambling Act 2005 was established in October 2005 and came into force in stages up to 1 September 2007. The Act established the Gambling Commission which is the Independent regulator of operators and made provision for Local Authorities to become the regulator of gambling premises. The Act has now been in force for 10 years and in that time, there have been significant changes to the gambling market and the understanding of harm across the gambling landscape has become better understood.
2. The Government is consulting on proposed changes in order to look across the industry and determine what changes, if any, are needed to strike the right balance between socially responsible growth and the protection of consumers and the communities they live in.
3. Operators of Gambling premises are licensed by the Gambling Commission, Operators within Fareham require a mixture of Licences or Permits from the Council depending on the type of premises.
4. Each type of Gaming Machine is categorised based on its stake and prize money. Details of which premises can have which category and how many Gaming machines are detailed within the report to the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee of 28 November 2017, which can be seen as Appendix B to this report.
5. Currently within Fareham there are 8 Betting Premises licences, 2 Adult Gaming Centre Premises licences, 1 Bingo Premises licence, 13 Club Machine Permits and 16 Licensed Premises Machine Permits.
6. In respect of fixed odds betting terminals, there will be 4 machines in each of the Betting Premises and up to 20% of the total number of machines within the 2 Adult Gaming Centres can be fixed odds betting terminals.
7. There are no set gambling limits in adult gaming centres, but there is a limit on the type of machines available. Operators must adhere to a number of social responsibility codes to lead customers into an option to self-exclude from gambling premises. This is

however for the customer to action, although staff are trained to interact with customers and signpost them to gamble aware websites. There should also be leaflets available in the premises.

8. Although this cannot be confirmed directly, there are undoubtedly some individuals who have entered into a self-exclusion with operators. This is an option that operators offer to customers to exclude themselves from a premise or premises for a set period of time.
9. Within the Consultation there are 16 questions posed. These questions and a draft response can be seen as Appendix A to this report. The consultation closes on 23 January 2018.

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman (Ext 4773)