

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council **14 February 2025**

Subject: **Gambling – Statement of Principles**

Report of: **Director of Neighbourhoods**

SUMMARY

To consider the draft revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, which the Council is required to review and publish every three years, for use relating to applications/reviews under the Gambling Act 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the final draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2025 – 2028, as attached as Appendix A to this report, be adopted by the Council.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Gambling Act 2005 introduced significant changes in the regulation of the gambling industry. Most of these changes fell to the Gambling Commission to implement. Local authorities were required to act as the licensing authority in relation to the licensing of premises and the issuing of permits for certain activities:
 - Casinos
 - Betting offices and racetracks
 - Bingo premises
 - Adult gaming centres
 - Family entertainment centres.
2. The Council is required to determine and publish, every three years, a statement of principles in relation to the exercise of its functions under the Gambling Act 2005. The three-year period to which the current Statement of Policy relates ended in January 2025.

REVISION OF STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

3. The draft revised Statement of Principles can be seen at Appendix A to this report.
4. The Statement has had no significant amendments.
5. Consultation with the bodies as per the Appendix within the revised draft Statement of Principles was undertaken between September and November 2024.
6. No consultation responses were received during the consultation period.
7. Since the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 there have been no Panels for Gambling matters for the Council's Licensing Panel.
8. The Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee approved the draft Statement on 26 November 2024 for recommendation to the Executive.
9. The Executive approved the draft Statement on 13 January 2025 for recommendation to Council.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. The Council is required by statute to review and publish every three years a reviewed Gambling Act Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005. In the absence of such a statement it may not be possible to properly consider applications for Premises Licences made under the Act and any decisions the Council may make could open to challenge.
11. This Council must adopt a three-yearly reviewed Gambling Act Statement of Principles issued under the Gambling Act 2005. The reviewed Gambling Act Statement of Principles must be adopted by the Council for the period 2025-2028.
12. The reviewed Gambling Act Statement of Principles has been prepared for adoption in compliance with guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

Appendices:

Appendix A: [Draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles](#)

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

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