

Central Bedfordshire Council

LICENSING

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REVIEW OF GAMBLING ACT POLICY

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Purpose of this report

To review the current Gambling Act Policy as required by legislation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the changes to the current policy
2. Recommend that Council adopt the revised policy

Issues

1. Central Bedfordshire Council (as the Licensing Authority) is required by law to review its gambling policy on a three yearly basis.
2. The current policy is due for renewal in January 2016.
3. We are proposing only minor changes and additions to the policy to reflect current legislation. See Appendix A (changes have been highlighted for ease of reference)
4. Consultation on the amended policy took place between 20 July 2015 and 9 October 2015.
5. Only 2 relevant responses were received. See Appendix B. Appropriate comments and suggestions have been included in the revised policy.

Council Priorities

6. The proposed action supports at least one of the Council's priorities:
 - enhancing your local community – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
 - promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable

Legal Implications

7. The Council is required by law to review its Gambling Act policy every 3 years.
8. It must consult with a wide range of bodies/individuals. (See policy for details)

Financial Implications

9. None

Equalities Implications

10. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
11. In order to promote the “Protecting children and other vulnerable people from gambling” licensing objective, the policy has listed at 2.7 how it plans to carry out its duties in this regard.

Conclusion and next Steps

12. The Council is required to publish its revised policy at least 4 weeks before it comes into effect. Therefore the projected timescales are:

Policy review to Full Council 19/11/2015

Reviewed policy published by 31/12/2015

Policy effective from 31/01/2015

Appendices

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A – Revised Gambling Act policy
Appendix B – Consultation responses

Background papers

None