

Central Bedfordshire Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE

5 October 2018

Review of Gambling Act Policy

Responsible Director:- Marcel Coiffait,
marcel.coiffait@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

This report relates to a decision that is Key

Purpose of this report

1. 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

Current Policies and Conditions

2. Central Bedfordshire Council, as the Licensing Authority, is required by law to review its Gambling Act Policy on a three-yearly basis.
3. The current policy is due for renewal in January 2019.

Options for consideration

4. 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)
5. Consultation on the amended policy took place between 25 July and 05 September 2018.

Three comments on the proposals have been received. See Appendix B and C and D.

Council Priorities

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
- Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing

Corporate Implications

None

Legal Implications

The proposed changes comply with the Gambling Commission's Code of Practice coming into force on 4th April 2018 made under the Gambling Act 2005.

Financial and Risk Implications

Fees for matters associated with activities covered by the Gambling Act 2005 are set to cover the full cost of administering this function as required by the legislation. The proposed changes to policy have no additional financial implications.

Equalities Implications

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 nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The licensing objectives are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Conclusion and next Steps

6. The Council is required to publish its revised policy at least 4 weeks before it comes into effect. Therefore the projected times scales are:-
 - Policy review to Full Council on 15 November 2018
 - Reviewed policy published 31 December 2018
 - Policy effective from 31 January 2019

Appendices

Appendix A: Revised Gambling Act Policy

Appendix B: Comment from Ladbrooks

Appendix C: Comment from Gamcare

Appendix D: Comment from Shefford Town Council

Background Papers

None

**Report author(s): Jo Borthwick, Service Manager
Margaret James, Principal Public Protection Officer
Jo.borthwick@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Margaret.james@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**