Purpose of report

To consider a revised Statement of Licensing Principles as part of the Gambling Act 2005.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

1.1 To approve and adopt the revised South Northamptonshire Council Statement of Licensing Principles.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 This report refers to the Statement of Licensing Principles following the review required by the Gambling Act 2005.

3.0 Report Details

3.1 Section 349 of The Gambling Act 2005 requires all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act and in particular the following 3 licensing objectives:

- Keeping gambling crime free
- Making sure that gambling is fair and open
- Protecting children and vulnerable adults

3.2 The statutory period for the statement is three years. The last statement was approved by Full Council on 19 December 2012 and came into effect on 31 January 2013. A new statement must be prepared and published with a view to it coming into effect on 31 January 2016.
3.3 In Northamptonshire the policy is prepared jointly across the county. The draft policy is attached at Appendix 1.

3.4 The Licensing Committee was included in the consultation exercise and also considered the policy on 3 November 2015. It was recommended that the policy be submitted to Council for approval.

3.5 The deadline for publication of this policy is 6 January 2016.

3.6 The Act requires a consultation to be carried out with the persons/groups detailed below. This was carried out between 21 September and 2 November 2015.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the revised Statement of Licensing Principles be approved.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The following were consulted with. 4 representations were received and these are detailed in Annex 2. Comments were taken on board and the changes made to the statement are detailed in Annex 3.

- The Council’s Licensing Committee
- Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the business interests of persons carrying on gambling business in the authority’s area
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: The policy must be reviewed so rejection is not a realistic option.
7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications

Comments checked by: Brian Wallace, Interim Principal Accountant for Community and Environment, 01295 221737

Legal Implications

7.2 The decision must comply with relevant legislation and Council Policy.

There is a risk that if policy and legislation has not been correctly followed any resulting appeal could be successful.

Comments checked by: Matt Marsh, Solicitor, 01295 221691, matt.marsh@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

To deliver regulatory services that are efficient, and well regarded by business customers

Portfolio Holder

Councillor Dermot Bambridge, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Document Information

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Background Papers

None

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