

Report to: Licensing Committee

Date: 17th December 2024

Title: Eastbourne Borough Council Statement of Gambling Principles

Report of: Rob Cottrill,
Chief Executive of Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Council's

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: To review Eastbourne Borough Council Statement of Gambling Principles and agree a six-week public consultation.

Officer recommendation(s): (1) The Committee reviews the Statement of Gambling Principles for Eastbourne Borough Council

(2) The Committee authorises the Senior Specialist Advisor to start a six-week consultation with the public, trade and interested bodies.

(3) That, following the consultation period, the Lead for Regulatory Services, in conjunction with the Chair of the Licensing Committee, be delegated to consider the consultation responses and make any minor changes to the Eastbourne Borough Council's Statement of Gambling Principles and then recommend the same to Full Council for approval. That in the event of substantial changes being suggested by the consultation, a report be brought back to the Licensing Committee.

Reasons for recommendations: Statutory requirement to review the Statement of Gambling Principles every three years.

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1 Introduction

1.1 It is a requirement to regularly review the Council's Statement of Gambling Principles. The current Statement took effect in 2022 and is therefore due for review. There are changes expected from Central Government and the Gambling Commission. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport published

a white paper on gambling reform in April 2023 but there has yet to be any changes to the legislation. Therefore, there may be the need for a further review to take account of any changes to legislation at a future date.

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to consult the Licensing Committee on the draft Statement of Gambling Principles.
- 1.3 The Council's Statement of Gambling Principles should be regarded as a local framework for decision making when considering applications and the Licensing Committee and its sub-committees are required to have due regard to this when forming a decision.
- 1.4 Gambling has the potential to cause harm to both individuals and wider society resulting in unemployment, debt, crime, relationship problems and physical or mental health conditions. This presents a challenge as it involves a range of services such as licensing, community safety, children and families and housing, homelessness and therefore cannot be tackled by interventions aimed solely at individuals.
- 1.5 Problem gambling disproportionately affects certain groups, including ethnic minorities, young people, those in the criminal justice systems and homeless people. Research estimates that the social cost of gambling to the UK economy could be up to 1.2 billion.

2 Significant Changes to the Statement of Principles

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the revised Statement at Appendix 1. The revised Statement shows in black text those parts as per current Policy and parts in red text are those which are added or amended.
- 2.2 Changes to reflect the Gambling Commission License Conditions and Codes of Practice which came into effect on 30th August 2024.
 - Age verification regarding customers under 25
 - Undertaking of risk assessments which takes into account relevant matters which are identified in the Statement of Principles
- 2.3 It is proposed to consult with the Responsible Authorities, the licensing trade, public interest groups, partner agencies and through public consultation via www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk.

3 Financial Impact

- 3.1 There are no additional financial implications to this report.

4 Legal implications

- 4.1 Under section 349 Gambling Act 2005 a Licensing Authority shall, before each successive period of three years, prepare a statement of the principles which they will apply in exercising their functions under the Act during that period. The same section states that the Licensing Authority shall consult with the Chief

Officer of Police, those who represent the interests of people carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area and those who appear to the authority to represent the interests of people who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions.

4.2 The Licensing Authority should also take account of The Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) Regulations 2006 which states the legal rules for the form of the Statement and the procedure to be followed in preparing and publishing a Statement.

4.3 This Report was considered by the Legal Section on 3 December 2024 (IKEN-13583- MW).

5 Risk management implications

5.1 There are no risk management implications.

6 Equality analysis

6.1 There are no Equality implications associated with this report.

7 Environmental sustainability implications

7.1 There are no sustainability and/or carbon reduction implications associated with this report.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 - Proposed amended Statement of Gambling Principles 2025-2028.

9 Background papers

Government response to measures relating to the land based gambling sector:
[Government response to measures relating to the land-based gambling sector - GOV.UK](#)

Gambling Commission - Codes of practice:
<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/authorities/codes-of-practice>

Gambling Act 2005:
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/19/pdfs/ukpga_20050019_en.pdf

Guidance to licensing authorities:
<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities#changes>