

5 NOTIFICATION OF THE DRAFT LICENSING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES POLICY AND CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GAMBLING ACT 2005.

Report By: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS

Wards Affected:

County-wide

Purpose

1. To present to the committee the draft licensing statement of principles and outline the consultation process for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. (document attached)

Law

2. Section 349 of the Act requires all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the act during the three-year period to which the policy applies.
3. The statement of the principles licensing policy will last a maximum of three years but can be reviewed and revised by the authority at any time.
4. The Licensing Objectives under the Gambling Act 2005 are:
 - Preventing gambling being a source of crime or disorder
 - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
 - Protecting children and the vulnerable from being harmed or exploited by gambling
5. The Local authorities will issue the following:
 - **Premises licenses** for:
 - Casinos
 - Betting offices and race tracks
 - Bingo clubs
 - Adult gaming centres
 - Family entertainment centres
 - **Permits** for:
 - Gaming machines in alcohol-licensed premises, such as pubs
 - Gaming machines for members clubs

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Suzanne Laughland, Licensing Manager on (01432) 261675

- Gaming in members clubs
 - Unlicensed family entertainment centres
(Category D machines only - i.e. those that have the lowest level of stakes and prizes)
 - Prize gaming
- **Occasional and Temporary Use Notices**
 - **Provisional Statements**
 - **Small-Scale Lotteries Registrations**
6. The start of the transitional period where the local authorities will receive applications between 31 January 2006 and 27 April 2007. All existing operators who submit their advance applications by 27 April will benefit from continuation rights.
 7. Members training by legal on the Gambling Act is planned to commence in October 2006.

Consultation.

8. The Act requires that the licensing authority consult with the following on the statement of principals licensing policy or any subsequent revision.
 - The chief officer of police for the authorities area;
 - One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authorities area; and
 - 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 this act.
9. The Councils Statement of principal's policy is required to be published by the means of the Website by 31 December 2006.
10. Consultation will take place by:-
 - Publishing Notices in the local press.
 - Writing to all premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.
 - Writing to all premises who currently hold Amusement with Prizes licences or Small Lottery Registrations.
 - All other businesses within Herefordshire that can be identified as requiring a licence e.t.c under the Gambling Act 2005.
 - Local or National organisations identified as having an interest in gambling.
 - Published on Herefordshire Councils Website.
 - Notifying Local members.
 - Writing to local organisations acting on behalf of young people and children.
11. The final statement of principal's policy will be brought back to the Regulatory Committee at the end of November 2006 for their considerations.

Recommendation

For the Regulatory Members to note the report and draft policy.