

COMMITTEE:	CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 SEPTEMBER 2017
TITLE:	REVIEW OF THE GAMBLING POLICY STATEMENT
PURPOSE:	FOR DECISION
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1. **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a draft Gambling Policy Statement to the Members for consideration and approval after conducting a public consultation in accordance with the 2005 Gambling Act. (Appendix 1)
- 1.2 You may remember that this Committee, in its meeting on 6 March 2017, approved the draft policy for a public consultation.
- 1.3 During the meeting, a discussion was held on the content of the draft policy. Concerns were expressed by several members about the frequency of gambling advertisements that appear on television channels and the internet, especially on sports subscription channels. It was agreed that the licensing officer would convey the Committee's observations to the Gambling Commission, which is responsible for regulating gambling advertisements. A copy of the letter sent to the Commission has been attached for your information (Appendix 2)

2. **THE RESULT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 For the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act), Gwynedd Council is recognised as a Licensing Authority and it is responsible for issuing and regulating premises licences, including premises that provide bingo, betting offices, entertainment arcades and so on. The Authority is also responsible for registering small lotteries and for issuing gambling machine permits to public houses.
- 2.2 Not all types of gambling are regulated by the Local Authority; for example, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the National Lottery Commission continue to regulate spread betting and the National Lottery.
- 2.3 It is the Gambling Commission's responsibility to issue operating and personal licences for commercial gambling (such as casinos and bingo halls) and for people working in the industry.
- 2.4 The Act has three licensing aims, and it is these that form the basis of the Licensing Authority's functions. They are as follows:
- Preventing Gambling from being a source of Crime and Disorder, from being associated with crime or disorder, or from being used to support crime;
 - Ensuring that Gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
 - Safeguarding children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited through gambling.

- 2.5 Section 349 of the Act requires Licensing Authorities, every three years, to prepare and publish a declaration of the Licensing Principles they wish to implement whilst carrying out their functions in accordance with the Act.
- 2.6 A consultation was held for a period of 12 weeks up to the middle of July - and there was no response to the consultation.

3. PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION

- 3.1 Since no observations were received to the consultation on the draft policy, this Committee is asked to approve the policy in its current form.
- 3.3 Once the Licensing Committee agrees on a final version of the Gambling Policy Statement, Section 154 of the Act states that the policy must be adopted by the full Council.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the draft Gambling Policy Statement in accordance with the 2005 Gambling Act and approve it for adoption.