

COMMITTEE:	CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	22 June 2026
TITLE:	REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY
PURPOSE:	FOR DECISION
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1. **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit a draft Statement of Gambling Policy for consideration and approval before conducting a public consultation in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 (Appendix 1).

2. **BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 For the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act), Cyngor Gwynedd is considered to be the Licensing Authority and is responsible for issuing and regulating premises licences, including bingo premises, betting shops, amusement arcades, etc.
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 objectives, and it is these that form the basis of the Licensing Authority's functions. These are -
- 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 statement of the Licensing Principles they wish to implement whilst carrying out their functions in accordance with the Act.

- 2.6 The current Statement of Gambling Policy has been subject to significant improvements in 2018, and while the Central Government has recognized the need to review the legislation around the regulation of the Gambling industry, there have been no significant changes recently in terms of regulating those elements of the industry that are relevant to the Local Licensing Authorities. In determining its Policy, the Authority must have regard to the Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission under section 25 of the Act.
- 2.7 The draft policy statement has been reviewed in accordance with the Gambling Commission's guidance to Local Authorities published in 2021 and revised in 2025.
- 2.8 In its latest guidance, the Commission has reinforced provisions requiring gambling operators to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives arising from the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and to have policies, procedures and control measures in place to mitigate those risks. The intention of national policy in this regard is to establish a transparent and evidence-based approach to consider and implement measures to address the risks associated with gambling. When conducting these risk assessments, licence holders should consider the Licensing Authority's Statement of Gambling Policy.
- 2.9 The Guidance also encourages Licensing Authorities to develop a Local Area Profile, highlighting key features that operators should consider.
- 2.10 The review to the draft Policy has been prepared in consultation with the North Wales Licensing Group and aims to achieve consistency in approaches across the region.
- 2.11 Input was also received from officers from the Public Health Directorate of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, due to the increasing significance of the harmful effects of gambling on public health.

3. **PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION**

- 3.1 A consultation will be held on the draft Statement of Gambling Policy if approved by this Committee, in accordance with s349 of the Act which will include -
- A Chief Police Officer
 - One or more persons whom the Authority considers to represent the interests of persons running gambling businesses in the Authority's area
 - One or more persons whom the Authority considers to represent the interests of persons likely to be affected by the Authority as it undertakes its function in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

- 3.2 The public consultation period will run for 12 weeks, and the Licensing Authority will have to take into account the responses received during the consultation process; a request will be made to this Committee to consider any possible changes arising from the consultation process.
- 3.3 Once the Licensing Committee has agreed a final draft of the Statement of Gambling Policy, Section 154 of the Act states that the policy must be adopted by the full Council.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 The Gambling Commission's guidance on formulating and reviewing policy leads Licensing Authorities to take into consideration the equality characteristics of citizens who may be impacted by gambling practices when deciding on applications for a premises licence, etc. Equality characteristics have therefore been considered when the Statement of Gambling Policy was originally produced in order to comply with the Act, and each time the Policy has been subsequently reviewed.
- 4.2 A comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the current Statement of Gambling Policy, following a period of engagement on the draft policy. Once a public consultation has taken place on the draft policy statement, the Equality Impact Assessment will be reviewed, taking into account the minor changes introduced in the draft policy. If any changes to the Impact Assessment are required, this will take place before the Policy Statement is submitted to the full Council for approval later in the year.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to consider the draft Statement of Gambling Policy in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and approve it for public consultation.