



Name of Committee:	LICENSING
Directorate:	Governance Resources & Communication
Corporate Manager:	Nicci Marzec
Date:	7 November 2006

Report Title	Gambling Act 2005 Licensing Policy Statement
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1. Recommendations

That the report be noted and members comments on the Policy Statement be requested.

2. Summary

The Gambling Act 2005 updated draft policy statement be considered and commented on by the Committee.

3. Report Background

The Gambling Act 2005 received Royal Assent on 7 April 2005. It transfers responsibility for the licensing of premises used for gambling to local authorities. This, in turn, is overseen by the newly formed Gambling Commission which takes over from the Gambling Board.

Section 349 of the Act requires all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of principles they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act. The policy applies for three years.

Guidance from the Gambling Commission was issued in April 2006. This gives the format to be followed when producing a policy statement. The Local

Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) has produced a template for the policy and our document has followed this design.

The draft policy was produced on behalf of all seven districts in Northamptonshire. The final version has now been amended to include information relating to Northampton, Appendix 1 of this report. This is required by the guidance issued to local authorities by the Gambling Commission and forms Appendix A to the policy.

The Act gives a list of those who should be consulted regarding the policy statement:

- The chief officer of police for the authority's area;
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's 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 the Act.

A list of consultees is given in Appendix C of the policy statement. Rather than all seven authorities consulting individually, one letter has been sent to them from the county. We have written to all parish councils, all licensed premises and gambling establishments in Northampton.

This period of formal consultation commenced early July and expired early September.

Responses were received by several local authorities in the County, including those received in Northampton. A summary of these responses is given in Appendix 2 of this report.

Where comments were received, and the licensing statement was not amended, it was because they did not relate to the purpose of the statement.

The completed policy will need to be approved by full Council on 27 November. The final version has to be published by 3 January 2007 at the latest.

The commencement of the transitional arrangements for issuing premises licences by the Licensing Authority has been put back by three months until 30 April 2007. The end of the transitional period remains at 31 July 2007. It is estimated there will be approximately 34,000 gambling licence applications nationally. The full implementation date still remains at September 2007.

3A. Any Relevant Policies

NIL

4. Options and Evaluation of Options

N/A

5. Resource Implications (including Financial Implications)

None

6. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal	
External	

7. Compliance Issues

Legal Comments
Finance Comments

8. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source

Gambling Act 2005 and Guidance Produced by the Gambling Commission

[Report Author, title and extension]

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