

COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: 10TH FEBRUARY, 2016

SUBJECT:
REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

A summary of the consultation responses is attached.

It is recommended that:-

- The amended Gambling Policy, taking into account the Gambling Commission's updated guidance, be approved.

Reasons:

- The attached revised Gambling Policy document reflects the results of the consultation and review process and complies with relevant legislation and guidance

Relevant Scrutiny Committee to be consulted: YES – Environmental & Public Protection – 11th December, 2015

Scrutiny Committee Recommendations/Comments:

- The Committee RESOLVED to recommend to Executive Board that the amended Gambling Policy be approved.

Exec Board Decision Required YES – 4th January, 2016

Council Decision Required YES - 10th February, 2016

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Jim Jones (Environmental & Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Department for Communities

Name of Head of Service:
Robin Staines

Report Author:
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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: 10TH FEBRUARY, 2016

REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY

The current Gambling Policy was adopted by the authority in December 2012 and came into effect on the 31st of January 2013. The legislation requires it to be reviewed at least every three years to ensure that it reflects feedback from the local community that the statutory objectives are being met.

The authority's licensing section in conjunction with the council's legal department have reviewed the policy document in light of revisions to Gambling Commission guidance. The authority has liaised closely with the Gambling Commission to ensure that the revised document embraces the changes being introduced by the commission, which included hosting a collaboration meeting with representatives of the Gambling Commission, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion licensing authorities.

The key changes to the legislation and guidance include :-

- Revisions to Licence Conditions and codes of practice, including the introduction of premises specific risk assessments from April 2016.
- Developing a more local focus for gambling policies, including the option of developing a local area profile.

As part of the review, the authority is required to undertake a consultation exercise aimed at the chief officer of Police, representatives of gambling businesses and persons representing the interests of residents and businesses in the area, in order for their views to be formally considered by the authority.

The consultation began on the 7th of July and finished on the 13th of September 2015.

Approximately two thousand individuals and organisations, including licence holders and their representatives, town and community councils, members of parliament, assembly members, county councillors, council departments and responsible authorities received consultation documents. The responsible authorities include, The Licensing Authority, Dyfed Powys Police, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gambling Commission, Environmental Health (Pollution Section), Planning Authority, HMRC, Children Services.

On this occasion the survey was undertaken using the iLocal consultation facility on the Council's web site. This enabled the majority of consultees to be contacted via e-mail, thus reducing the cost whilst increasing the accessibility of the consultation.

A total of 44 responses were received.

The key issues raised as a result of the consultation exercise and review were:-

- No areas of the county were identified as suffering with gambling related problems.
- There is evidence of a link between gambling and financial exploitation.

A revised gambling policy document, incorporating amendments to reflect the relevant consultation responses is attached. Once approved by full council the revised Gambling Policy will come into effect four weeks after being published on the authority's web site in accordance with the regulations.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing and Public Protection

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The proposed amendments to the Gambling Policy promote the prevention of crime and disorder. The Policy complies with the Authority's duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

An Equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and no negative impacts have been identified.

2. Legal

Legal services are satisfied that the proposed amendments comply with the Gambling Act 2005 and the statutory guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing and Public Protection

1.Scrutiny Committee

The Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee was consulted on 11th December, 2015.

2.Local Member(s)

Local Members were consulted through correspondence.

3.Community / Town Council

Town and Community Councils were consulted through correspondence.

4.Relevant Partners

Relevant partners were consulted through correspondence and consultation meetings.

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Consultation Responses	Review of Gambling Policy 2015	3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen
Gambling Commission Guidance	Review of Gambling Policy 2015	3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen