

COUNCIL
9TH MARCH 2022

REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY

Cabinet Recommendations:

A summary of the consultation responses is attached.

It is recommended that :-

- The amended Gambling Policy 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 **NO** (Licensing Committee 17/02/2022)

Cabinet Decision Required **YES 28th February 2022**

Council Decision Required **YES 9th March 2022**

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. P M Hughes (Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate:

Department for Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Jonathan Morgan

Report Author:

Emyr Jones

Designations:

Head of Homes and Safer
Communities

Licensing Lead

Tel:

Email addresses:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Council
9th March 2022

REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY

Context

The current Gambling Policy was adopted by the authority in December 2018. 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.

Consultation

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 25th of October 2021 and finished on the 21st of November 2021. Over one 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.

The survey was again undertaken using the 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.

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

- No clear evidence that specific areas of the county are suffering with gambling related problems.
- There is evidence of access to gaming machines by under 18's in alcohol licensed premises and improvements to supervision arrangements and staff training are required.

The authority's licensing section in conjunction with the council's legal department have reviewed the policy document in light of the consultation responses. The authority has liaised closely with the Gambling Commission, included hosting a virtual meeting with a representative of the Gambling Commission as well as the licensing sections of, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Ceredigion licensing authorities, with the aim of ensuring as far as possible a consistent approach to the revised Gambling Policy.

The key change to Gambling Policy document include :-

1. Section 21 of the Gambling Policy relating to licensed premises gaming machine permits has been updated to reflect the results of the test purchasing exercise undertaken in 2019.(Page 31)
2. Section 23 of the Gambling Policy relating to Club Gaming Machine Permits has also been updated with good practice advice following the test purchase exercise in 2019.(Page 33)

A revised gambling policy document, incorporating amendments to reflect the relevant consultation responses is attached.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

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: **Jonathan Morgan**

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

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: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A - The Council's Licensing Committee considered the Gambling Policy Review report on the 17th of February and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE CABINET that the amended Gambling Policy be approved.

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

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

The cabinet members comments are incorporated within the analysis report.

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 2021	3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen
Gambling Commission Guidance	Review of Gambling Policy 2021	3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen