

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>10 SEPTEMBER 2018</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2018</b>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT</b>

## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Statement of Gambling Policy which has already been approved subject to conducting an Equality Impact Assessment. The full draft consultation was to be considered and approved following the public consultation in accordance with the 2005 Gambling Act. See the policy in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.2 You will recall that this Committee, at its meeting on 11th September 2017, received confirmation that no representations had been received in response to the public consultation on the draft policy conducted for 12 weeks over the Summer in 2017.
- 1.3 It was reported at a meeting of this Committee on 11 December 2017, that research on the impact of gambling on public health published in October 2017 was considered as relevant evidence for the Equality Impact Assessment on the Policy.
- 1.4 Following the December meeting, it was resolved that the Equality Impact Assessment would be submitted to this Committee for approval, on its contents and the policy prior to consideration by the full Council for final approval in accordance with Section 154 of the Gambling Act 2005. See the equality impact assessment in Appendix 2.

## 2. FINDINGS OF THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 An assessment was conducted of all the relevant evidence available. It was concluded that it was not anticipated that the Statement of Gambling Policy would have a significantly negative or positive impact on any of the groups protected by the Equality Act, equality characteristics, or the general duty under the Act.
- 2.2 It was noted that the Gambling Commission had drafted specific guidance for Licensing Authorities that meant that the equality characteristics of citizens had to be considered when drafting Policies under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 2.3 Furthermore, it was noted that the Licensing Authority should give attention to equality characteristics when determining applications for a gambling premises licence.
- 2.4 It is noted that the Act and the policy place a responsibility on gambling licence operators to undertake a local risk assessment to identify any

nearby sensitive establishments such as schools, centres for vulnerable adults and residential areas.

- 2.3 It is important to note that currently there is a lack of evidence in the field to prove if gambling policies have an impact on the population. The Gambling Commission has recently published a briefing paper that summarises the current position in terms of evidence of harm associated with gambling practices.

### 3. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Statement of Gambling Policy and the Equality Impact Assessment in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and approve it for adoption by the full Council.