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Regulatory Committee

Wednesday, 3 July 2024 6.30 p.m.
Town Hall, Runcorn

S. Young

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Pamela Wallace (Chair)
Councillor John Abbott (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Irene Bramwell
Councillor Eddie Dourley
Councillor Mike Fry
Councillor Valerie Hill
Councillor Colin Hughes
Councillor Kath Loftus
Councillor Angela McInerney
Councillor Gareth Stockton
Councillor Angela Teeling

*Please contact Kim.Butler on 0151 5117496 or e-mail
kim.butler@halton.gov.uk for further information.*

The next meeting of the Committee is on Wednesday, 9 October 2024

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 4
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.</p>	
3. GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY	5 - 43

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 11 January 2023 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Abbott (Vice-Chair), Fry, Loftus, A. McInerney, G. Stockton and Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Wallace and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh and L. Wilson-Lagan

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

REG5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

REG6 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from the Taxi Trade to increase the current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares due to the impact of the costs of living crisis. The Trade had been consulted on 1) whether there should be a fare increase and 2) the method of the increase. The Committee were referred to the responses and counterproposals received which were appended to the Committee report.

Most of the trade were in favour of an increase and the proposal set out at page 7 of the report. The Committee were advised of slight typographical errors set out in the proposed new table of fares on page 7 and were handed a new table setting out the correct proposal.

The proposal was for a 30p increase to the start rate as well as a 10% reduction on the yardage figures (except for the first 440 yards used to calculate the start rate) on all

Action

tariffs. The yardage figure is reduced on Tariff 1 from 220 to 200 yards, on Tariff 2 from 165 to 150 yards and on Tariff 3 from 132 to 120 yards. The yardage unit price of 0.20p was to be maintained. It was also proposed that the waiting time be increased by £3.00 per hour. The table below sets out the proposed new rates.

T1	£3.30 for the first 440 yards (402 metres) then £0.20 for each 200 yards (182.9 metres) or part thereof
T2	£4.10 for the first 440 yards (402 metres) then £0.20 for each 150 yards (137.2 metres) or part thereof
T3	£4.90 for the first 440 yards (402 metres) then £0.20 for each 120 yards (109.7) or part thereof
<p>Waiting Time</p> <p>The hirer will be charged £0.20 for the following periods or uncompleted part thereof</p> <p>Tariff 1 – 48 seconds Tariff 2 – 34 seconds Tariff 3 – 27 seconds</p>	

The Committee were advised that the proposal represented a 10% monetary increase in fares.

The Committee also took into account information from two drivers who were for and against the proposal. This information was handed to the Committee on the night and read out by Officers.

In analysing the proposal, the Committee considered the increase in the cost of living as shown by the Consumer Prices Index which rose by 11.1% in the 12 months up to October 2022 and in overheads for drivers and proprietors especially the cost of fuel, noting that most of the Hackney Carriages in Halton were diesel. It also noted that the UK national minimum wage, DWP benefits and the basic and new state pensions were set to rise from April 2023 by around 10%.

The Committee also noted that the proposed table of fares was consistent with that charged by neighbouring authorities in the City Region and Cllr Stockton stated that the proposed new fares were still much lower than those charged by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The Committee also considered the proposed increase in light of the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty as statistics showed that the elderly and people with disabilities are more reliant on public transport, particularly the bus and taxis, than younger adults and non-disabled

adults. It noted that age and disabilities groups would be consulted. However, given that a 10% fare increase was proposed and the basic and state pension together with Disability Living Allowance was set to rise by 10% by April 2023, it accepted that any negative impact would be short lived and there would be a negligible impact from April 2023.

Whilst noting the objections from some members of the trade, the Committee also noted that the Table of Fares was the maximum amount that drivers/ proprietors were allowed to charged and that a lower fare could be agreed with consumers if drivers so wished. It was considered that this dealt with the concerns raised by those objecting to the proposal.

The Committee accepted the Officer's conclusions that the proposal was in line with inflation and that it was a reasonable and proportionate increase which struck the right balance between the needs of the fare-paying public, the requirements for affordable transport and also the needs of the taxi drivers to make a fair living.

It therefore recommended that the proposed new table of fare be accepted by the Executive Board and that Officers commence the public notification and consultation procedure as required by the statutory procedure.

During the debate, Cllr Loftus explained that there were no direct routes for taxis to travel around the north end of Runcorn. For example, going from Asda to Palace Fields requires them to go through numerous housing estates. This is more time consuming and expensive for members of the public. She proposed the busways be opened to taxis as a solution and it was agreed that the matter be referred to Transportation for further comment and for her request to be noted in these minutes.

RESOLVED: The Committee requested that the Executive Board:-

1. agree the proposed fare increase; and
2. authorise officers to commence the public notification and consultation as required by the statutory procedure.

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

REG7 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

REG8 CREAMFIELDS EVENT 2022

The Committee considered a report summarising the Creamfields Event 2022 from the responsible authorities.

The Committee accepted the report. However, requested that representatives from the Police attend the next Committee meeting to provide some further information.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

REPORT TO:	Regulatory Committee
DATE:	3 July 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Director – Legal and Democratic Services
PORTFOLIO:	Resources
SUBJECT:	Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Gambling Policy
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To authorise a consultation on a review of the Council's statement of Gambling Policy which is due to expire in January 2025.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) The Director - Legal and Democratic Services (D-LD) be authorised to undertake a consultation exercise in respect of the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy in accordance with section 349 Gambling Act 2005;**
- ii) The D-LD determine all matters relating to the consultations process; and**
- iii) The matter be reported back to the Regulatory Committee following the completion of the consultation process.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In 2022 the Council adopted the current Statement of Gambling Policy in compliance with its obligations under section 349 Gambling Act 2005. Statements of Gambling Policy are also referred to as the "Three-year licensing policy" and the "statement of principles". The function of a Statement of Gambling Policy is to set out the principles that the Council propose to apply in exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

3.2 Statements of Gambling Policy last for periods of three years and must be reviewed by the Council for successive three year periods. These periods are maximum periods and Statements of Gambling Policy may be reviewed at shorter intervals should the need to arise. A Statement of Gambling Policy cannot be re-adopted/revised before the completion of a consultation exercise. The current Statement of Gambling Policy is due to expire at midnight on 30th

January 2025 and the new Statement of Gambling Policy must be in place on 31st January 2025. Attached to this report at **Appendix A** is the current Statement of Gambling Policy which is due to expire in January 2025.

- 3.3 Attached at **Appendix B** of this report is the new draft Statement of Gambling Policy with slight amendments, **Appendix C** of this report sets out additional paragraphs which have been added to the new draft statement, the paragraphs have been inserted after point 8 of the policy – Licensing Functions and can be found on page 7 of the policy.
- 3.4 The form and content must comply with regulations and with Guidance issued to local authorities by the Gambling Commission. In this agenda references to Guidance issued to local authorities refers to the current Guidance but regard has been had to the revised changes to the Guidance for Licensing Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission in April 2023.
- 3.5 This report recommends the delegation of matters relating to the consultation process to the D-LD. Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 specifies the person who must be consulted and detailed procedures are set out in the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and in Guidance issued to local authorities by the Gambling Commission.
- 3.6 Following completion of the consultation exercise any comments and recommendations received will be reported back to the Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 9 October 2024 for consideration and recommendation to full Council. The appropriate Council meeting would be 4 December 2024. The re-adoption/revision of the Statement of Gambling Policy with or without amendments is reserved for full Council to determine.
- 3.7 The consultation is about the existing Statement of Gambling Policy (which can also be viewed on the Council’s website). Minor policy guidance amendments have been made since the adoption of the existing policy. The guidance referred to is set out in the Gambling Commission’s Guidance to Local Authorities published April 2021 (Amended April 2023).
- 3.8 The Statement of Gambling Policy under section 349 Gambling Act 2005 is analogous to the Statement of Licensing Policy under section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.9 The amendments proposed from the 2022 version of the policy are minor and clarificatory in nature, bur reflect current guidance.
- 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Once adopted, the Statement of Gambling Policy will be used by applicants and the Regulatory Committee in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Council's Statement of Gambling Policy operates under a separate statutory code but the protection of children and other vulnerable persons from harm is one of the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues to highlight.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no climate change implications since the decision will have no effect on the environment.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF**

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission	Licensing Section/ Government Website www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk	Kim Hesketh
Halton Council's current Statement of Gambling Policy	Licensing Section/ Council website www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/business/licencing/gambling	Kim Hesketh

APPENDIX A

Halton Borough Council
STATEMENT OF
GAMBLING POLICY
Gambling Act 2005

**Approved by Halton Borough
Council on 8 December 2021
(Minute)**

Date coming into effect 31/01/2022

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PART A

1. The Licensing Objectives

In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

This policy will promote these licensing objectives.

It should be noted that the Gambling Commission has stated: “The requirement in relation to children is explicitly to protect them from being harmed or exploited by gambling”.

2. Introduction

Halton Borough Council (“the Council”) is situated in the County of Halton and is a Unitary Authority. Halton Borough comprises the towns of Widnes and Runcorn and surrounding villages of Hale, Daresbury, Moore, and Preston Brook. It is predominantly an urban area with a population of 125,773 (2011 Census).

Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a statement of the principles which they proposed to apply when exercising their functions. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from “time to time” and any amended parts re-consulted upon. The statement must be then re-published.

The Council consulted upon this policy statement before finalising and publishing it. A list of the persons we consulted is provided below.

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties are consulted by Licensing Authorities:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- One or more persons who appear to the authority represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority’s area
- 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 Gambling Act 2005

List of persons this authority consulted:

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Halton Borough Council People Directorate
- Halton Borough Council Enterprise, Communities and Resources Directorate
- The Bingo Association
- Association of British Bookmakers
- British Amusement Catering Association
- Responsibility in Gambling Trust (U.K.)
- GamCare
- The general public through local advertisement and the Council’s website

- Cashino Unit 29-33a Forest Walk Halton Lea Runcorn
- British Beer & Pub Association
- William Hill Bookmakers

It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and will depend to a large extent on the type of gambling that is proposed for the premises according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005. The Council shall aim to permit the use of premises for gambling as set out in section 153 of the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Declaration

In producing this licensing policy statement, this licensing authority declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the policy statement.

4. Competent authority for protection of children from harm

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under Section 157(h) of the Act to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area;
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group etc.

The Council designates the Halton Borough Council People Directorate for this purpose.

The contact details of all the Responsible Bodies under the Gambling Act 2005 are available from Legal Services Licensing Section.

5. Interested parties

Interested parties can make representations about licence applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

“For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the applications is made, the person-

- a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorities activities,
- b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- c) represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)”

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under section 158 of the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

Each case will be decided upon its merits. The Council will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities. Note that decisions on Premises Licences must be "in accordance" with Gambling Commission Guidance.

The Gambling Commission has recommended that the licensing authority states that interested parties include trade associations and trade unions, and residents' and tenants' associations. This authority will not however generally view these bodies as interested parties unless they have a member who can be classed as one under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005 e.g. lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the activities being applied for.

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MP's. Other than these persons, this authority will require written evidence that a person 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorities activities and/or business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

If individuals wish to approach Councillors to ask them to represent their views then care should be taken that the Councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then please contact the licensing department. Contact details are set out in Part D below.

6. Exchange of Information

Licensing authorities are required to include in their policy statement the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under sections 29 and 30 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions under section 350 of the Act with the respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

The principle that this licensing authority applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that data protection legislation will not be contravened. The licensing authority will also have regard to Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to Local Authorities on this matter, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

Issues of confidentiality will be assessed on a case by case basis since the interests of data subjects must be balanced against the public interest. The fundamental principle which the licensing authority must adhere to is that it must act in the public interest. Data subjects can access information via the licensing authority's contact details set out below.

7. Inspection and criminal proceedings

Licensing authorities are required by regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.

This licensing authority's principles are that:

It will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities and as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, it will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary; remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects

This licensing authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

This licensing authority will also, as recommended by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, adopt a risk-based inspection programme.

The licensing authority's Community Safety Team carries out inspections – often jointly with Gambling Commission enforcement staff.

The main enforcement and compliance role for this licensing authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the Premises Licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the Operator and Personal Licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the licensing authority but will be notified to the Gambling Commission. This authority also understands that the Gambling Commission will be responsible for compliance as regards unlicensed premises.

This licensing authority will promote efficient and effective regulatory approaches which improve outcomes without imposing unnecessary burdens on business.

8. Licensing Authority functions

Licensing Authorities are required under the Act to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing *Premises Licences*
- Issue *Provisional Statements*
- Regulate *members' clubs* and *miners' welfare institutes* who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue *Club Machine Permits* to *Commercial Clubs*
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at *unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres*
- Receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) of the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Grant *Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits* for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where more than two machines are required
- Register *small society lotteries* below prescribed thresholds
- Issue *Prize Gaming Permits*
- Receive and Endorse *Temporary Use Notices*

- Receive *Occasional Use Notices*
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

It should be noted that local licensing authorities will not be involved in licensing remote gambling at all. This will fall to the Gambling Commission via Operator Licences.

PART B PREMISES LICENCES

1. General Principles

Premises Licences will be subject to the permissions/restrictions set-out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which will be detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.

This licensing authority is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

Definition of "premises" - Premises is defined in the Act as "any place". It is for the licensing authority to decide whether different parts of a building can be properly regarded as being separate premises and as the Gambling Commission states in its Guidance for local authorities, it will always be a question of fact in the circumstances. The Gambling Commission does not however consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separate can be properly regarded as different premises.

This licensing authority takes particular note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities which states that in considering applications for multiple licences for a building or those for a specific part of the building to be licensed, entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised and that people do not 'drift' into a gambling area.

This licensing authority will also take note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities that: Licensing authorities should pay particular attention to applications where access to the licensed premises is through other premises (which themselves may be licensed or unlicensed).

Location - This licensing authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, this authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder. Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling

premises should not be located, this policy statement will be updated. It should be noted that any such policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how the concerns can be overcome.

Duplication with other regulatory regimes - This authority will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems where possible, including planning. This authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning or building consent, in its consideration of it. This authority will though listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.

Licensing objectives - Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, this licensing authority has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities and some comments are made below.

Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime – This licensing authority is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it.

Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way - This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission in its Guidance for local authorities has stated that generally the Commission would not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business, and therefore subject to the operating licence, or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual and therefore subject to the personal licence. This licensing authority also notes, however, that the Gambling Commission states in relating to the licensing tracks the licensing authorities' role will be different from other premises in that track operators will not necessarily have an operating licence. In those circumstances the premises licence may need to contain conditions to ensure that the environment in which betting takes place is suitable. This licensing authority understands that there may be further guidance from the Gambling Commission on this issue which it will have regard to, when available.

Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling - This licensing authority has noted the Gambling Commission Guidance to local authorities states that the objective talks of protecting children from being "harmed or exploited by gambling, but in practice that often means preventing them from taking part in or being in close proximity to gambling.

This licensing authority will pay particular attention to any Codes of Practice which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective in relation to specific premises such as casinos. It is understood that a Code for casinos must:

- specify steps that the premises licence-holder must take to ensure that children and young persons (that is those under the age of 18) do not enter casino premises, or in the case of the regional casino do not enter the gambling area;
- amongst those specified steps, ensure that each entrance to the casino or gambling area is supervised by at least one person ("the supervisor") who is responsible for compliance with the code of practice; and

- require that, unless the supervisor is certain that a person seeking admittance is an adult, evidence of age must be required of all those seeking to enter the casino or gambling area.

As regards the term “vulnerable persons” it is noted that the Gambling Commission is not seeking to offer a definition but states that it will for regulatory purposes assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs. This licensing authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis. Should a practical definition prove possible in future then this policy statement will be updated with it, by way of a revision.

Conditions - Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises: and
- reasonable in all other respects.

Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of control measures this licensing authority will consider utilising should there be a perceived need, such as the use of door supervisors, supervision of adult gaming machines, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in this regard under each of the licence types below. This licensing authority will also expect the licence applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

It is noted that there are conditions which the licensing authority cannot attach to premises licences which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated; and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes.

Door Supervisors - The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities may consider whether there is a need for door supervisors in terms of the licensing objectives of protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and also in terms of preventing premises becoming a source of crime. It is noted though that the Gambling Act 2005 has amended the Security Industry Act and that door supervisors at casinos or bingo premises cannot be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. This licensing authority may therefore have specific requirements for door supervisors working at casinos or bingo premises.

2. Adult Gaming Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that

under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. Appropriate licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

3. (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres:

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas. Appropriate licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operator licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. This licensing authority will also make itself aware of any mandatory or default conditions on these premises licences, when they have been published.

4. Casinos

The Council did not make an application for new casinos under the Gaming Act 1968 (prior to the deadline of 26th April 2006). Consequently 'Section 4. Casinos' is not directly relevant to this Statement but is included for the sake of completeness.

No Casinos resolution - This licensing authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005, but is aware that it has the power to do

so. Should this licensing authority decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution.

Casinos and competitive bidding - This licensing authority is aware that where a licensing authority area is enabled to grant a Premises Licence for a new style casino (i.e. the Secretary of State has made such regulations under Section 175 of the Gambling Act 2005) there are likely to be a number of operators which will want to run the casino. In such situations the local authority will run a 'competition' under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005. This licensing authority will run such a competition in line with any regulations issued under the Gambling Act 2005 by the Secretary of State.

Betting machines - This licensing authority is aware that, as explained in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities: Section 181 contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence or to a casino premises licence (where betting is permitted in the casino). When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the licensing authority, amongst other things, should take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable persons.

Credit - This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission has stated in its Guidance for Local Authorities that section 177 does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers (ATMs) on the premises. Such machines may accept debit cards and the arrangement is subject to a requirement that the licensee has no other commercial connection in relation to gambling (aside from the agreement to site the machines) with the service-provider and does not profit from the arrangement, not make any payment in connection with the machines. Guidance on the further conditions that may apply in relation to such machines will be included in the next version of this guidance

5. Bingo premises

This licensing authority will follow the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission relating to bingo. There will be a focus on the protection of children and young persons, use of gaming machines and appropriate conditions.

6. Betting premises

Betting machines - It is noted that the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: "Section 181 contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence or to a casino premises licence (where betting is permitted in the casino). When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the licensing authority, amongst other things, should take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable persons."

Credit - It has also been noted that the Gambling Commission Guidance states: section 177 does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers (ATMs) on the premises. Such machines may accept debit cards and the arrangement

is subject to a requirement that the licensee has no other commercial connection in relation to gambling (aside from the agreement to site the machines) with the service-provider and does not profit from the arrangement, nor make any payment in connection with the machines. It is also understood that the Gambling Commission will be placing restrictions and requirements on Operating Licences for betting premises as regards credit and this licensing authority will consider the guidance when it is available.

7. Tracks

This licensing authority is aware that the Gambling Commission may provide further specific guidance as regards tracks. We have taken note of the Guidance from the Gambling Commission which highlights that tracks are different from other premises in that there may be more than one premises licence in effect and that the track operator may not be required to hold an operator licence as there may be several premises licence holders at the track which will need to hold their own operator licences.

There may be some specific considerations with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling and this authority would expect the premises licence applicants to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities. It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, although they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided.

Appropriate licence conditions may be:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- The location of gaming machines

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

Betting machines - Licensing authorities have a power under the Gambling Act 2005, to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available, by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence. The Gambling Commission's Guidance will be noted in that it states: In relation to betting premises away from tracks, the Commission is proposing that licensing authorities should take into account the size of the premises and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by vulnerable people when determining the number of machines permitted. Similar considerations apply in relation to tracks, where the potential space for such machines may be considerable, bringing with it significant problems in relation to the proliferation of such machines, the ability of track staff to supervise them if they are scattered around the track and the ability of the track

operator to comply with the law and prevent children betting on the machine. Licensing authorities will want to consider restricting the number and location of betting machines, in the light of the circumstances of each application for a track betting premises licence.

This licensing authority also notes that, in the Commission's view, it would be preferable for all self-contained premises operated by off-course betting operators on track to be the subject of separate premises licences. This would ensure that there was clarity between the respective responsibilities of the track operator and the off-course betting operator running a self-contained unit on the premises.

Condition on rules being displayed - The Gambling Commission has advised in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities should attach a condition to track premises licences requiring the track operator to ensure that the rules are prominently displayed in or near the betting areas, or that other measures are taken to ensure that they are made available to the public. For example, the rules could be printed in the race-card or made available in leaflet form from the track office.

8. Travelling Fairs

It will fall to this licensing authority to decide whether, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is to be made available for use at travelling fairs, the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met.

The licensing authority will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

It has been noted that the 27-day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair, is per calendar year, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. This licensing authority will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses our boundaries is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

9. Provisional Statements

This licensing authority notes the Guidance for the Gambling Commission which states that it is a question of fact and degree whether premises are finished to a degree that they can be considered for a premises licence and that requiring the building to be complete ensures that the authority could, if necessary, inspect it fully.

In terms of representations about premises licence applications, following the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances. In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- (a) which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional licence stage; or
- (b) which is in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances.

This authority has noted the Gambling Commission's Guidance on not taking into account irrelevant matter: one example of an irrelevant matter would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning or building regulations approval for the proposal.

10. Reviews:

Requests for a review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities, however, it is for the licensing authority to decide whether the review is to be carried-out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below, as well as consideration as to whether the request is frivolous, vexatious, will certainly not cause this authority to wish alter/revoke/suspend the licence, or whether it is substantially the same as previous representations or requests for review.

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy;

The licensing authority can also initiate a review of a licence on the basis of any reason which it thinks is appropriate.

PART C Permits / Temporary & Occasional Use Notice

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits (Statement of Principles on Permits – Schedule 10 para 7)

Where a premises does not hold a Premises Licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the licensing authority for this permit. It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use (Section 238).

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may prepare a *statement of principles* that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit and in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under section 25. The Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities also states: In their three year licensing policy statement, licensing authorities may include a statement of principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions in considering applications for permits....., licensing authorities will want to give weight to child protection issues. Further guidance on the information that should be obtained from the applicant and others will be provided in the next version of this guidance.

The Guidance also states: An application for a permit may be granted only if the licensing authority is satisfied that the premises will be used as an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre, and if the chief officer of police has been consulted on the application. Relevant considerations to take into account would include the applicant's suitability, such as any convictions that they may have that would make them unsuitable to operate a family entertainment centre; and the suitability of the premises in relation to their location and issues about disorder.

It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit and that the statement of principles only applies to initial applications and not to renewals.

Statement of Principles: This licensing authority will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however, they may include DBS checks for staff, training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises, or children causing perceived problems on / around the premises.

With regard to renewals of these permits, a licensing authority may refuse an application for renewal of a permit only on the grounds that an authorised local authority officer has been refused access to the premises without reasonable excuse, or that renewal would not be reasonably consistent with pursuit of the licensing objectives.

2. (Alcohol) Licensed premises gaming machine permits – (Schedule 13 Para 4(1))

There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the licensing authority. The licensing authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with);
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises

If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the licensing authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and “*such matters as they think relevant.*” This licensing authority considers that “such matters” will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines. Measures which will satisfy the authority that there will be no access may include the adult machines being in site of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also be help. As regards the protection of vulnerable persons this applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would need to be applied for, and dealt with as an Adult Entertainment Centre premises licence.

It should be noted that the licensing authority can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

It should also be noted that the holder of a permit to must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

3. Prize Gaming Permits – (Statement of Principles on Permits - Schedule 14 Para 8 (3))

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a Licensing Authority may “prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule” which “may, in particular, specify matters that the licensing authority propose to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit”.

This licensing authority has not prepared a statement of principles. Should it decide to do so it will include details in a revised version of the policy statement.

In making its decision on an application for this permit the licensing authority does not need to have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but that the licensing authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

4. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

Members Clubs and Miners’ welfare institutes (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Clubs Gaming machines permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in forthcoming regulations. A Club Gaming machine permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D).

Gambling Commission Guidance for local authorities states: Members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted “wholly or mainly” for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is permitted by separate regulations. It is anticipated that this will cover bridge and whist clubs, which will replicate the position under the Gaming Act 1968. A members’ club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men’s clubs, branches of Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations.

The Guidance also makes it clear that before granting the permit the authority will need to satisfy itself that the premises meet the requirements of a members’ club and may grant the permit if the majority of members are over 18.

This Licensing Authority is aware that: Licensing authorities may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- (a) the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- (b) the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- (c) an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- (d) a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- (e) an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

It should be noted that there is a 'fast-track' procedure available for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. As the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the ground upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced and that the grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- (a) that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12;
- (b) that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- (c) that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

5. Temporary Use Notices

There are a number of statutory limits as regards Temporary Use Notices. It is noted that it falls to the licensing authority to decide what constitutes a 'set of premises' where Temporary Use Notices are received relating to the same building / site.

6. Occasional Use Notices:

The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The licensing authority will though need to consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

Part D

Contact Details

Please contact the licensing authority via the following email address and telephone number: Email - legalservices@halton.gov.uk; Tel: 0151 511 6535.



Halton Borough Council

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING
POLICY

GAMBLING ACT 2005

January 2025 – January 2028

DRAFT

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PART A

1. The Licensing Objectives

In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

This policy will promote these licensing objectives.

It should be noted that the Gambling Commission has stated: “The requirement in relation to children is explicitly to protect them from being harmed or exploited by gambling”.

2. Introduction

Halton Borough Council (“the Council”) is situated in the County of Halton and is a Unitary Authority. Halton Borough comprises the towns of Widnes and Runcorn and surrounding villages of Hale, Daresbury, Moore, and Preston Brook. It is predominantly an urban area with a population of around 128,500 (2021 Census). Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a statement of the principles which it proposes to apply when exercising their functions. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from “time to time” and any amended parts re-consulted upon. The statement must be then re-published.

The Council consulted upon this policy statement before finalising and publishing it. A list of the persons we consulted is provided below.

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties are consulted by Licensing Authorities:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- One or more persons who appear to the authority represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority’s area
- 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 Gambling Act 2005

List of persons this authority consulted:

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Halton Borough Council People Directorate
- Halton Borough Council Enterprise, Communities and Resources Directorate
- The Bingo Association
- Association of British Bookmakers
- British Amusement Catering Association
- Responsibility in Gambling Trust (U.K.)
- GamCare
- The general public through local advertisement and the Council’s website
- Reel Leisure

- Cashino Gaming Limited
- White Leisure Limited
- British Beer & Pub Association
- William Hill Bookmakers
- Betfred Bookmakers
- Coral Bookmakers
- David Pluck Bookmakers
- Boylesports Bookmakers
- Club 2000 Bingo
- Buzz Bingo

It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and will depend to a large extent on the type of gambling that is proposed for the premises according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005. The Council shall aim to permit the use of premises for gambling as set out in section 153 of the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Declaration

In producing this licensing policy statement, this licensing authority declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the policy statement.

4. Competent authority for protection of children from harm

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under Section 157(h) of the Act to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area;
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group etc.

The Council designates the Halton Borough Council People Directorate for this purpose.

The contact details of all the Responsible Bodies under the Gambling Act 2005 are available from Legal Services Licensing Section.

5. Interested parties

Interested parties can make representations about licence applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

“For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the applications is made, the person-

- a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorities activities,
- b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or

c) represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)”

The licensing authority is required to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under section 158 of the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

Each case will be decided upon its merits. The Council will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission’s Guidance to local authorities. Note that decisions on Premises Licences must be “in accordance” with Gambling Commission Guidance.

The Gambling Commission has recommended that the licensing authority states that interested parties include trade associations and trade unions, and residents’ and tenants’ associations. This authority will not however generally view these bodies as interested parties unless they have a member who can be classed as one under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005 e.g. lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the activities being applied for.

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MP’s. Other than these persons, this authority will require written evidence that a person ‘represents’ someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorities activities and/or business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

If individuals wish to approach Councillors to ask them to represent their views then care should be taken that the Councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then please contact the licensing department. Contact details are set out in Part D below.

6. Exchange of Information

Licensing authorities are required to include in their policy statement the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under sections 29 and 30 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions under section 350 of the Act with the respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

The principle that this licensing authority applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that relevant data protection legislation will not be contravened. The licensing authority will also have regard to Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to Local Authorities on this matter, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

Issues of confidentiality will be assessed on a case by case basis since the interests of data subjects must be balanced against the public interest. The fundamental principle which the licensing authority must adhere to is that it must act in the public interest. Data subjects can access information via the licensing authority’s contact details set out below.

7. Inspection and criminal proceedings

Licensing authorities are required by regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.

This licensing authority's principles are that:

It will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities and as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, it will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects

This licensing authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

This licensing authority will also, as recommended by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, adopt a risk-based inspection programme.

The licensing authority's Community Safety Team carries out inspections – often jointly with Gambling Commission enforcement staff.

The main enforcement and compliance role for this licensing authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the Premises Licences and other permissions which is authorised. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the Operator and Personal Licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the licensing authority but will be notified to the Gambling Commission. This authority also understands that the Gambling Commission will be responsible for compliance as regards unlicensed premises.

This licensing authority will promote efficient and effective regulatory approaches which improve outcomes without imposing unnecessary burdens on business.

8. Licensing Authority functions

Licensing Authorities are required under the Act to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing *Premises Licences*
- Issue *Provisional Statements*
- Regulate *members' clubs* and *miners' welfare institutes* who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue *Club Machine Permits* to *Commercial Clubs*
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at *unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres*
- Receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) of the use of two or fewer gaming machines

- Grant *Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits* for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where more than two machines are required
- Register *small society lotteries* below prescribed thresholds
- Issue *Prize Gaming Permits*
- Receive and Endorse *Temporary Use Notices*
- Receive *Occasional Use Notices*
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

It should be noted that local licensing authorities will not be involved in licensing remote gambling at all. This will fall to the Gambling Commission via Operator Licences.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 obligation

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is under a statutory duty to do all that it can to prevent crime and disorder within its administrative area. It is mindful of national concerns that licensed premises can be used for criminal activity such as drug dealing or money laundering. The Council shall work in partnership with licence holders, local businesses, responsible authorities and local communities to promote licensing objectives.

Equality and Diversity - obligations for non-discrimination under the Equality Act 2010

The Council is mindful of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and through policy and service delivery shall look to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between diverse communities.

Roles of Gambling Commission (Personal and Operator Licences) and licensing authority (premises licence)

In order for a business to undertake activity covered by the Gambling Act 2005, they are required to hold a personal licence and operator licence (which are issued by the Gambling Commission) together with a premises licence which is issued by the Council in accordance with the licensing objectives.

At present, the Council has issued 22 premises licenses in total (consisting of 2 for Bingo, 15 Betting Shops and 5 Adult Gaming Centres).

Conditions of premises licence (mandatory/standard conditions)

The conditions placed on a premises licence shall consist of the mandatory and standard conditions unless other conditions are required to promote the licensing objectives.

Corporate Objectives

The adopted Halton Borough Council Corporate Plan 2024-29 includes three corporate objectives - Building a Strong Sustainable Local Economy, Supporting Children, Young People and Families and Tackling Inequality/helping those who are

most in need. These are relevant to the issue of gambling and the need to ensure that the process for issuing Premises Licences should be both efficient and effective.

PART B PREMISES LICENCES

1. General Principles

Premises Licences will be subject to the permissions/restrictions set-out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which will be detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.

This licensing authority is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

Definition of "premises" - Premises is defined in the Act as "any place". It is for the licensing authority to decide whether different parts of a building can be properly regarded as being separate premises and as the Gambling Commission states in its Guidance for local authorities, it will always be a question of fact in the circumstances. The Gambling Commission does not however consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separate can be properly regarded as different premises.

This licensing authority takes particular note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities which states that in considering applications for multiple licences for a building or those for a specific part of the building to be licensed, entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised and that people do not 'drift' into a gambling area.

This licensing authority will also take note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities that: Licensing authorities should pay particular attention to applications where access to the licensed premises is through other premises (which themselves may be licensed or unlicensed).

Location - This licensing authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, this authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder. Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, this policy statement will be updated. It should be

noted that any such policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how the concerns can be overcome.

Duplication with other regulatory regimes - This authority will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems where possible, including planning. This authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning or building consent, in its consideration of it. This authority will though listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.

Licensing objectives - Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, this licensing authority has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities and some comments are made below.

Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime – This licensing authority is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it.

Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way - This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission in its Guidance for local authorities has stated that generally the Commission would not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business, and therefore subject to the operating licence, or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual and therefore subject to the personal licence. This licensing authority also notes, however, that the Gambling Commission states in relating to the licensing tracks the licensing authorities' role will be different from other premises in that track operators will not necessarily have an operating licence. In those circumstances the premises licence may need to contain conditions to ensure that the environment in which betting takes place is suitable. This licensing authority understands that there may be further guidance from the Gambling Commission on this issue which it will have regard to, when available.

Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling - This licensing authority has noted the Gambling Commission Guidance to local authorities states that the objective talks of protecting children from being "harmed or exploited by gambling, but in practice that often means preventing them from taking part in or being in close proximity to gambling.

This licensing authority will pay particular attention to any Codes of Practice which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective in relation to specific premises such as casinos. It is understood that a Code for casinos must:

- specify steps that the premises licence-holder must take to ensure that children and young persons (that is those under the age of 18) do not enter casino premises, or in the case of the regional casino do not enter the gambling area;
- amongst those specified steps, ensure that each entrance to the casino or gambling area is supervised by at least one person ("the supervisor") who is responsible for compliance with the code of practice; and

- require that, unless the supervisor is certain that a person seeking admittance is an adult, evidence of age must be required of all those seeking to enter the casino or gambling area.

As regards the term “vulnerable persons” it is noted that the Gambling Commission is not seeking to offer a definition but states that it will for regulatory purposes assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs. This licensing authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis. Should a practical definition prove possible in future then this policy statement will be updated with it, by way of a revision.

Conditions - Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises: and
- reasonable in all other respects.

Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of control measures this licensing authority will consider utilising should there be a perceived need, such as the use of door supervisors, supervision of adult gaming machines, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in this regard under each of the licence types below. This licensing authority will also expect the licence applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

It is noted that there are conditions which the licensing authority cannot attach to premises licences which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated; and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes.

Door Supervisors - The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities may consider whether there is a need for door supervisors in terms of the licensing objectives of protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and also in terms of preventing premises becoming a source of crime. It is noted though that the Gambling Act 2005 has amended the Security Industry Act and that door supervisors at casinos or bingo premises cannot be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. This licensing authority may therefore have specific requirements for door supervisors working at casinos or bingo premises.

2. Adult Gaming Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that

under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. Appropriate licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

3. (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres:

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas. Appropriate licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operator licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. This licensing authority will also make itself aware of any mandatory or default conditions on these premises licences, when they have been published.

4. Casinos

The Council did not make an application for new casinos under the Gaming Act 1968 (prior to the deadline of 26th April 2006). Consequently 'Section 4. Casinos' is not directly relevant to this Statement but is included for the sake of completeness.

No Casinos resolution - This licensing authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005, but is aware that it has the power to do

so. Should this licensing authority decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution.

Casinos and competitive bidding - This licensing authority is aware that where a licensing authority area is enabled to grant a Premises Licence for a new style casino (i.e. the Secretary of State has made such regulations under Section 175 of the Gambling Act 2005) there are likely to be a number of operators which will want to run the casino. In such situations the local authority will run a 'competition' under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005. This licensing authority will run such a competition in line with any regulations issued under the Gambling Act 2005 by the Secretary of State.

Betting machines - This licensing authority is aware that, as explained in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities: Section 181 contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence or to a casino premises licence (where betting is permitted in the casino). When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the licensing authority, amongst other things, should take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable persons.

Credit - This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission has stated in its Guidance for Local Authorities that section 177 does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers (ATMs) on the premises. Such machines may accept debit cards and the arrangement is subject to a requirement that the licensee has no other commercial connection in relation to gambling (aside from the agreement to site the machines) with the service-provider and does not profit from the arrangement, not make any payment in connection with the machines. Guidance on the further conditions that may apply in relation to such machines will be included in the next version of this guidance

5. Bingo premises

This licensing authority will follow the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission relating to bingo. There will be a focus on the protection of children and young persons, use of gaming machines and appropriate conditions.

6. Betting premises

Betting machines - It is noted that the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: "Section 181 contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence or to a casino premises licence (where betting is permitted in the casino). When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the licensing authority, amongst other things, should take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable persons."

Credit - It has also been noted that the Gambling Commission Guidance states: section 177 does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers (ATMs) on the premises. Such machines may accept debit cards and the arrangement

is subject to a requirement that the licensee has no other commercial connection in relation to gambling (aside from the agreement to site the machines) with the service-provider and does not profit from the arrangement, nor make any payment in connection with the machines. It is also understood that the Gambling Commission will be placing restrictions and requirements on Operating Licences for betting premises as regards credit and this licensing authority will consider the guidance when it is available.

7. Tracks

This licensing authority is aware that the Gambling Commission may provide further specific guidance as regards tracks. We have taken note of the Guidance from the Gambling Commission which highlights that tracks are different from other premises in that there may be more than one premises licence in effect and that the track operator may not be required to hold an operator licence as there may be several premises licence holders at the track which will need to hold their own operator licences.

There may be some specific considerations with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling and this authority would expect the premises licence applicants to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities. It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, although they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided.

Appropriate licence conditions may be:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- The location of gaming machines

This list is not exhaustive.

As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, this licensing authority will consider measures such as the use of self-barring schemes, provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

Betting machines - Licensing authorities have a power under the Gambling Act 2005, to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available, by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence. The Gambling Commission's Guidance will be noted in that it states: In relation to betting premises away from tracks, the Commission is proposing that licensing authorities should take into account the size of the premises and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by vulnerable people when determining the number of machines permitted. Similar considerations apply in relation to tracks, where the potential space for such machines may be considerable, bringing with it significant problems in relation to the proliferation of such machines, the ability of track staff to supervise them if they are scattered around the track and the ability of the track

operator to comply with the law and prevent children betting on the machine. Licensing authorities will want to consider restricting the number and location of betting machines, in the light of the circumstances of each application for a track betting premises licence.

This licensing authority also notes that, in the Commission's view, it would be preferable for all self-contained premises operated by off-course betting operators on track to be the subject of separate premises licences. This would ensure that there was clarity between the respective responsibilities of the track operator and the off-course betting operator running a self-contained unit on the premises.

Condition on rules being displayed - The Gambling Commission has advised in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities should attach a condition to track premises licences requiring the track operator to ensure that the rules are prominently displayed in or near the betting areas, or that other measures are taken to ensure that they are made available to the public. For example, the rules could be printed in the race-card or made available in leaflet form from the track office.

8. Travelling Fairs

It will fall to this licensing authority to decide whether, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is to be made available for use at travelling fairs, the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met.

The licensing authority will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

It has been noted that the 27-day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair, is per calendar year, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. This licensing authority will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses our boundaries is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

9. Provisional Statements

This licensing authority notes the Guidance for the Gambling Commission which states that it is a question of fact and degree whether premises are finished to a degree that they can be considered for a premises licence and that requiring the building to be complete ensures that the authority could, if necessary, inspect it fully.

In terms of representations about premises licence applications, following the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances. In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- (a) which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional licence stage; or
- (b) which is in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances.

This authority has noted the Gambling Commission's Guidance on not taking into account irrelevant matter: one example of an irrelevant matter would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning or building regulations approval for the proposal.

10. Reviews:

Requests for a review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities, however, it is for the licensing authority to decide whether the review is to be carried-out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below, as well as consideration as to whether the request is frivolous, vexatious, will certainly not cause this authority to wish alter/revoke/suspend the licence, or whether it is substantially the same as previous representations or requests for review.

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy;

The licensing authority can also initiate a review of a licence on the basis of any reason which it thinks is appropriate.

PART C Permits / Temporary & Occasional Use Notice

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits (Statement of Principles on Permits – Schedule 10 para 7)

Where a premises does not hold a Premises Licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the licensing authority for this permit. It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use (Section 238).

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may prepare a *statement of principles* that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit and in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under section 25. The Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities also states: In their three year licensing policy statement, licensing authorities may include a statement of principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions in considering applications for permits....., licensing authorities will want to give weight to child protection issues. Further guidance on the information that should be obtained from the applicant and others will be provided in the next version of this guidance.

The Guidance also states: An application for a permit may be granted only if the licensing authority is satisfied that the premises will be used as an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre, and if the chief officer of police has been consulted on the application. Relevant considerations to take into account would include the applicant's suitability, such as any convictions that they may have that would make them unsuitable to operate a family entertainment centre; and the suitability of the premises in relation to their location and issues about disorder.

It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit and that the statement of principles only applies to initial applications and not to renewals.

Statement of Principles: This licensing authority will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however, they may include DBS checks for staff, training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises, or children causing perceived problems on / around the premises.

With regard to renewals of these permits, a licensing authority may refuse an application for renewal of a permit only on the grounds that an authorised local authority officer has been refused access to the premises without reasonable excuse, or that renewal would not be reasonably consistent with pursuit of the licensing objectives.

2. (Alcohol) Licensed premises gaming machine permits – (Schedule 13 Para 4(1))

There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the licensing authority. The licensing authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with);
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises

If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the licensing authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and “*such matters as they think relevant.*” This licensing authority considers that “such matters” will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines. Measures which will satisfy the authority that there will be no access may include the adult machines being in site of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also be help. As regards the protection of vulnerable persons this applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would need to be applied for, and dealt with as an Adult Entertainment Centre premises licence.

It should be noted that the licensing authority can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

It should also be noted that the holder of a permit to must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

3. Prize Gaming Permits – (Statement of Principles on Permits - Schedule 14 Para 8 (3))

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a Licensing Authority may “prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule” which “may, in particular, specify matters that the licensing authority propose to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit”.

This licensing authority has not prepared a statement of principles. Should it decide to do so it will include details in a revised version of the policy statement.

In making its decision on an application for this permit the licensing authority does not need to have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but that the licensing authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

4. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

Members Clubs and Miners’ welfare institutes (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Clubs Gaming machines permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in forthcoming regulations. A Club Gaming machine permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D).

Gambling Commission Guidance for local authorities states: Members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted “wholly or mainly” for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is permitted by separate regulations. It is anticipated that this will cover bridge and whist clubs, which will replicate the position under the Gaming Act 1968. A members’ club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men’s clubs, branches of Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations.

The Guidance also makes it clear that before granting the permit the authority will need to satisfy itself that the premises meet the requirements of a members’ club and may grant the permit if the majority of members are over 18.

This Licensing Authority is aware that: Licensing authorities may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- (a) the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- (b) the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- (c) an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- (d) a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- (e) an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

It should be noted that there is a 'fast-track' procedure available for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. As the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the ground upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced and that the grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- (a) that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12;
- (b) that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- (c) that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

5. Temporary Use Notices

There are a number of statutory limits as regards Temporary Use Notices. It is noted that it falls to the licensing authority to decide what constitutes a 'set of premises' where Temporary Use Notices are received relating to the same building / site.

6. Occasional Use Notices:

The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The licensing authority will though need to consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

Part D

Contact Details

Please contact the licensing authority via the following email address and telephone number: Email - legalservices@halton.gov.uk; Tel: 0151 511 8066

APPENDIX C

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 obligation

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is under a statutory duty to do all that it can to prevent crime and disorder within its administrative area. It is mindful of national concerns that licensed premises can be used for criminal activity such as drug dealing or money laundering. The Council shall work in partnership with licence holders, local businesses, responsible authorities and local communities to promote licensing objectives.

Equality and Diversity - obligations for non-discrimination under the Equality Act 2010

The Council is mindful of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and through policy and service delivery shall look to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between diverse communities.

Roles of Gambling Commission (Personal and Operator Licences) and licensing authority (premises licence)

In order for a business to undertake activity covered by the Gambling Act 2005, they are required to hold a personal licence and operator licence (which are issued by the Gambling Commission) together with a premises licence which is issued by the Council in accordance with the licensing objectives.

At present, the Council has issued 22 premises licenses in total (consisting of 2 for Bingo, 15 Betting Shops and 5 Adult Gaming Centres).

Conditions of premises licence (mandatory/standard conditions)

The conditions placed on a premises licence shall consist of the mandatory and standard conditions unless other conditions are required to promote the licensing objectives.

Corporate Objectives

The adopted Halton Borough Council Corporate Plan 2024-29 includes three corporate objectives - Building a Strong Sustainable Local Economy, Supporting Children, Young People and Families and Tackling Inequality/helping those who are most in need. These are relevant to the issue of gambling and the need to ensure that the process for issuing Premises Licences should be both efficient and effective.