

REPORT: Regulatory Committee

DATE: 9 October 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Director – Legal and Democratic Services

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Gambling Policy

WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To approve a draft Statement of Gambling Policy for recommendation to full Council for adoption.

2. RECOMMENDATION that:

- 1) Having undertaken a consultation exercise, it is resolved that the draft Statement of Gambling Policy amended as set out in Appendix B be hereby approved by the Committee and be recommended to full Council for adoption.**
- 2) An appropriate form of wording for the Council resolution would be: “The Council”:**
 - a) adopts the Statement of Gambling Policy attached to the report to come into effect immediately following the expiry of the current Policy; and**
 - b) directs that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services publishes the Statement in accordance with section 349 Gambling Act 2005 and the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006”.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At a meeting held on 3 July 2024, the Committee considered a report on the Statement of Gambling Policy which must be adopted by the Council to replace the current policy which will expire in January 2025. 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.
- 3.2. The Committee authorised the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services (OD-LD) to undertake a consultation exercise in

respect of the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy in accordance with section 349 Gambling Act 2005.

- 3.3. The consultation exercise was completed on 23 August 2024. One comment was received from GamCare regarding the consultation, a copy of the reply can be found at **Appendix A** of this report.
- 3.4. Following the comments received from GamCare, Halton Borough Council will publish on the Council's website the details of the National Gambling Helpline for information.
- 3.5. The original consultation draft Statement is attached at **Appendix B** this includes the slight amendments, **Appendix C** of this report sets out the 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.
- 3.6. The appropriate Council meeting to consider this matter will be held on 4 December 2024.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Once it comes into effect, the Statement of Gambling Policy will be used in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no other implications arising out of this report.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1. Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence.

The Council's Statement of Gambling Policy operates under a separate statutory code but since it involves licensable activities it is designed to contribute to licensing objectives of the protection from harm.

6.2. Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None

6.3. Supporting Children, Young People and Families

None

6.4. Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

None

6.5. Working Towards a Greener Future

None

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community
None

7. RISK ANALYSIS

7.1. None identified.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1. There are no equality and diversity issues to highlight.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

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

10. 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