

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 9 September 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director Legal, Organisation Development and Human Resources

**SUBJECT:** Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Gambling Policy

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To endorse the statement of Gambling Policy attached to this report for the purpose of consultation.

## **2. RECOMMENDED: That**

- (1) The draft statement of gambling policy attached to this report be the Council's consultation document for the purposes of section 349 Gambling Act 2005 and**
- (2) The Operational Director Legal, Organisation Development and Human Resources determine all matters relating to the consultation process and**
- (3) The matter be reported back to the Executive Board following the consultation process**

## **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires a local authority to produce a Statement of Gambling Policy every three years.
- 3.2 The current Gambling Policy came into effect on 29 January 2007
- 3.3 A new statement of gambling policy must be in force by the end of January 2010. A statement of Gambling Policy must be adopted by the Council at least a month before that date. A meeting of the Council is programmed for 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and that would be a suitable date for adopting the statement.
- 3.4 The current statement of gambling policy is attached as appendix 1 to this agenda. This is intended to be the consultation document since no guidance issued under the Gambling Act 2005 suggests that a different model be used.
- 3.5 The Council can only adopt the statement after a formal consultation in accordance with the 2005 Act. It is suggested that the consultation period begin on or about 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and end by 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This will allow a reasonable time for consideration of comments from consultees.

- 3.6 The attached statement of Gambling Policy is self explanatory and complies with the statutory guidance issued by the Government under the 2005 Act.

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As previously reported to the Regulatory Committee there are major policy implications for the Council brought about by the 2005 Act. The Council must adopt a statement of gambling policy which will inform the way that licence applications are dealt with in future.

#### **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications arising out of this report.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

N/A

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

N/A

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

N/A

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

N/A

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

#### **7. RISK ANALYSIS**

N/A

#### **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

N/A

#### **9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 9.1 This report is based on the Gambling Act 2005 and statutory registers held by the Council. In addition the DCMS and LACORS web-sites have provided background information.