

PRODUCTION OF DRAFT GAMBLING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES-

GAMBLING ACT 2005

Purpose of this Report

To inform Members of the continuing progress made with respect to preparations at this Authority with the Gambling Act 2005 and to note the consultation arrangements for the draft Gedling Gambling Statement of Principles.

Information

Members will be aware that the Gambling Act 2005 will be introducing a new gambling regime in this country in the summer of 2007 that will repeal most of the existing laws relating to gambling in Great Britain. The new regime will provide an improved and more comprehensive structure to gambling regulation. The Act transfers the existing responsibility for the licensing of gaming premises from the Magistrates Courts to Licensing Authorities and introduces for the first time, a unified regulator for gambling, the Gambling Commission. The Gambling Commission replaces the Gaming Board for Great Britain.

Under the new Act Gedling Borough Council will be responsible for issuing premises licences for betting offices and amusement arcades as well as permits for gaming machines in pubs, clubs and other alcohol licensed premises. In many respects this responsibility mirrors the wider responsibilities that local authorities similarly took on last year under the Licensing Act 2003. Some existing functions of local authorities and licensing Magistrates are to be abolished and reintroduced as functions of the new licensing authorities under the 2005 Act, these are:

- Betting and Gaming Act 1963
- Gaming Act 1968
- Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976

Licensing authorities are required to prepare and publish, every three years, a statement of the principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions. In preparing such a statement, licensing authorities must follow the procedure set out in the Act as well as the accompanying guidance. Officers from all the Nottinghamshire licensing authorities have been working closely together to produce a common statement of principles which each authority has subsequently tailored to take in local circumstances as required by the national gambling guidance. The joint approach taken by the Nottinghamshire licensing authorities to the statement of principles will help trade organisations having more than one outlet across Nottinghamshire and will also help with a greater uniformity of administration and enforcement. A copy of the draft Gedling Gambling Statement of Principles is reproduced as **Appendix 1**.

Licensing authorities are required to carry out consultation of their draft statements against a national timeframe while meeting dates for a full Council meeting as detailed in the table below.

Timescale	Milestone
August-early November 2006 (12 weeks).	Report to Licensing Act Committee of progress with draft statement production. Consultation of the draft gambling statement.
Early November.	Review of draft statement in line with responses.
End November.	Publication of a 'document of responses'.
13 th December	Reporting of final gambling statement to full Council for approval.
By end December	Publication of the Gedling final Gambling Statement.
3 rd January 2007	National deadline for statements to have been published.
31 st January 2007	Policy statements come into force (First Appointed Day). Statements last three years unless revised earlier.

This Authority is consulting with all those involved directly with the gambling industry (arcades and betting shops, pubs and clubs), organisations having a regulatory role such as the Police as well as interested parties including local partnership groups, residents' associations, faith groups, youth organisations, elected Members and members of the public, particularly those that regularly participate in gambling or are affected by it. We are also inviting web users to take part in the consultation.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the progress being made by officers and the timetable for the Gambling Statement of Principles.