

GEDLING GAMBLING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Purpose of this Report

To inform Members of the progress made producing the new Gedling Gambling Statement of Principles and to receive approval for the document to be placed before a meeting of the full Council for adoption.

Information

Members will be aware that the Gambling Act 2005 requires Licensing Authorities to prepare and publish at least every three years a statement of the principles that they propose to apply when exercising their gambling functions. Three years has almost passed since the first Gambling Statement for Gedling was produced and a new published statement is needed by the end of December 2009.

As occurred with the production of the first Gambling Statement all the Nottinghamshire licensing authorities have again been working together under the aegis of the Nottinghamshire Licensing Authorities Group (NALG) to produce a new draft common gambling statement of principles. Each authority has then subsequently tailored the draft to take in local circumstances as required by the national gambling guidance.

The Licensing Office has widely consulted on the draft Statement over a twelve-week period in line with national best practice and consultation ended on the 13th October 2009. Copies of the draft Statement were sent out to bodies and organisations representing the trade, to the Gambling Commission and to the Responsible Authorities in the local area which has included the Chief Constable, HM Revenues and Customs and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board. An equalities-based Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EIA) for the statement identified the need to consult more widely on equalities grounds and the Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager and Community Safety Co-ordinator were sent copies for further dissemination with local groups. Elected Members were informed and copies of the draft Statement were placed in the Members' Room for further information. Throughout the consultation period a downloadable version of the draft Statement was available to download off the Gambling Statement web page of this Authority.

At the time of writing no adverse comments have been received requiring changes to the draft Statement: any that are received will be reported to Members at the Committee meeting. Any comments that are received will be collated and placed in a 'Summary of Responses' document made available to view on the Gambling web page. The Gambling Statement of Principles following the consultation process is attached to this report as Appendix 1 for the information and approval of Members.

Implications

Adoption of the Gambling Statement of Principles by this Authority will meet with the statutory requirements of the gambling legislation and enable Members and officers to correctly exercise their functions under the legislation.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to approve the new Gambling Statement of Principles and that the Statement be forwarded to full Council for adoption by this Authority.