

(Informal Joint) Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Recommendations of the Licensing Committee - 28 September 2015: West Suffolk Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Policy 2016 to 2019	
Report No:	CAB/FH/15/057	
Report to and dates:	(Informal Joint) Cabinet	24 November 2015
	Council	9 December 2015
Portfolio holder:	Councillor James Waters Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth Tel: 07771 621038 Email: james.waters@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Chairman of the Committee:	Councillor Michael Anderson Chairman of the Licensing Committee Tel: 01638 601624 Email: Michael.anderson@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Tom Wright Business Regulation and Licensing Manager Tel: 01638 719223 Email: tom.wright@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 28 September 2015 the Licensing Committee considered the following as a substantive item of business : Gambling Act 2005 : West Suffolk Revised Joint Statement of Policy 2016 to 2019	
Recommendations:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u>: that, subject to the approval of full Council, the Gambling Act 2005: West Suffolk Joint Statement of Policy for the period 2016 to 2019, as contained in Appendix 3 to Report No: LIC/FH/15/006, be adopted.	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>		<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:		• See Report: LIC/FH/15/006	
Alternative option(s):		• See Report: LIC/FH/15/006	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report: LIC/FH/15/006	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report LIC/FH/15/006	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report: LIC/FH/15/006	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report: LIC/FH/15/006	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report: LIC/FH/15/006	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
See Report: LIC/FH/15/006			
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Licensing Committee: 28 September 2015 - Report No LIC/FH/15/006	
Documents attached:		None	

Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1. Gambling Act 2005 : West Suffolk Revised Joint Statement of Policy 2016 to 2019 (Report No LIC/FH/15/006)

- 1.1 The Committee had considered Report No [LIC/FH/15/006](#) which set out the results of public consultation and sought approval of the Gambling Act 2005: Joint Statement of Policy for the Period 2016 to 2019. The Statement of Policy sets out how Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils (the West Suffolk Councils), in their roles as Licensing Authorities, will carry out functions under the Act. It recognises the importance of responsible gambling within the entertainment industry whilst seeking to balance this with the key objectives of the Act as follows:
- (a) preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
 - (b) ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
 - (c) protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 1.2 The objective of the Statement of Policy is to provide a vision for the local area and a statement of intent that guides practice.
- 1.3 The current Statement of Policy will expire in January 2016. Prior to and during the consultation on the version which would apply to the period 2016 to 2019 no evidence has been presented to support an assertion that any part of West Suffolk has or was experiencing problems from gambling activities. This position will, however, be kept under review and in the event of change further research will be undertaken to discover the extent of problems and an Area Profile will be prepared accordingly.
- 1.4 Replies to the consultation along with officer responses, both in summarised form, were attached as [Appendix 1 to Report No LIC/FH/15/006](#). Full consultation responses were contained in [Appendix 2a](#), [Appendix 2b](#) and [Appendix 2c](#). In the absence of data to support local risks and the development of a robust gambling area profile the Consultation Draft of the Statement required minor revision and key changes made were listed in paragraph 2.5 of the report. Further revisions made as a result of the consultation were referred to in the Officer Response column of Appendix 1. A final version of the document was included as [Appendix 3](#).
- 1.5 Officers advised that St Edmundsbury's Licensing and Regulatory Committee were to consider the Statement of Policy 2016 to 2019 the following evening (29 September 2015) and they subsequently also recommended approval.
- 1.6 Subsequent to the meeting of the Committee, a minor amendment to the text of the Joint Statement of Policy has been made under delegated authority by the Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with Councillor James Waters as Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth. The amendment was required to take account of a new fifth edition of the Gambling Commission Guidance for

Licensing Authorities. Accordingly the third paragraph of the Preface now reads as follows : *"All references made within this document to the Gambling Commission Guidance for Licensing Authorities, and any extracts quoted thereof, refer to the fifth edition Guidance document published in September 2015."*

- 1.7 Further very minor textual amendments have also been made to the document under delegated authority since it was considered by the Committee but as is the case in 1.6 above, these do not materially affect the meaning of the document.