

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE
24 JULY 2012**

**GAMBLING ACT 2005
REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY: DRAFT POLICY TO BE USED AS
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Gambling Act 2005 introduced significant changes to the Licensing Law in England and Wales. This report refers to one of the main provisions of the Act, the Gambling Policy Statement and the requirement to review it. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the document that is being used as a consultation document to fulfil the obligation for a three yearly review.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local Authorities were required to develop and adopt a Gambling Policy in consultation with the trade and local community and this must set out the authority's general approach to gambling licence applications. We are required to review the policy at least every three years. The time has now come for that review to take place.
- 2.2 A copy of the document to be circulated is attached at appendix 1 and is located at <http://www.exeter.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=16122&p=0> if required.
- 2.3 As there have been no changes to legislation relating to the Gambling Act it is felt that no changes to policy are necessary at this time. The policy has now been in place since 2005 and has not been challenged in any way nor been a cause of concern for the Assistant Director Environment in that time.
- 2.4 One minor change is being consulted upon at the time of writing but that consultation will not be completed in time for this to be included in the policy
- 2.5 The committee members are consultees for the purposes of this legislation and any comments they feel are appropriate can be fed back to the Assistant Director Environment through the website, via e-mail or by post.

3. OPTIONS

- 3.1 Approve the draft Policy proposals and instruct that a consultation be carried out as required. Any and all comments that are received in response to the consultation to be brought back to the Licensing committee as set out in the timescale below.

4. TIMETABLE

- End of July 2012 revised Policy circulated for consultation.
- October 2012 Consultation period ends.
- 27 November 2012, Gambling Policy (amended as necessary) to Licensing Committee with recommendation for approval to Full Council.
- 11 December 2012 Licensing Policy to Full Council for approval.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Council to have reviewed our Gambling Policy Statement and for it to be implemented by no later than 4 January 2013.
- 5.2 The revised Policy document (attached) will be used as a basis for consultation with Members of the Council, businesses and resident's representatives and others. It will be brought back to the Licensing Committee on 27 November 2012 to consider any representations that have been received and to enable a recommendation for the adoption of the final (reviewed) Policy to be made to Full Council on 11 December 2012.

6. RECOMMENDED

- 6.1 That the Committee resolves that the draft policy document at appendix 1 to be circulated and consulted upon as required with any responses being brought to the November Committee for consideration prior to the adoption of the policy.

Assistant Director Environment

Community and Environment

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None