

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Licensing Committee – 19 July 2021

Subject: Review of Gambling Policy

Report of: Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing

Summary

This report presents the Committee with a draft statement of our revised Gambling Act Policy and informs them of the method of consultation we propose to implement.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and provide any recommended alterations.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
None

Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable City: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Licensed premises provide a key role as an employer, in regeneration, and in attracting people to the city. The efficient processing of applications as well as effective decision making in respect of them, plays an essential role in enabling businesses to thrive and maximise contribution to the economy of the region and sub-region.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	An effective licensing regime works with Operators and other agencies to ensure as far as it is able, matters of equality and local issues.

<p>A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit and work.</p>	<p>The Licensing process provides for local residents and other interested parties to make representations in relation to licensing applications to safeguard local place-based interests. The authority must aim to permit gambling insofar as doing so is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime; ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p>
<p>A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth</p>	<p>Licensed premises play an important role in ensuring an economically successful City, and the Licensing Policy seeks to achieve desirable and high quality premises to help drive that growth.</p>

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Gambling Act received royal assent in April 2005 and consolidates regulation of casinos, bingo, gaming machines, lotteries, betting and remote gambling in one Act.
- 1.2 The Act established a non-departmental public body – the Gambling Commission – which has responsibility for advising both central and local government on issues relating to gambling. In addition, the Gambling Commission has responsibility for issuing Operating Licences and Personal Licences to organisations and individuals who wish to undertake certain activities under the Act.
- 1.3 The Gambling Commission is required by section 25 of the Act to issue Guidance to licensing authorities on the discharge of their functions under the Act. This Guidance deals primarily with matters intended to assist licensing authorities in the development of their gambling policy and sets out the principles that must be applied by the licensing authority in exercising its functions under the Act.
- 1.4 The City Council has responsibilities under the Act to issue premises licences, permits and temporary use notices in respect of premises where it is proposed that gambling should take place. Additionally, the City Council will continue to be responsible for the registration of Small Society Lotteries.
- 1.5 Members will be aware that under the Act the Council, as Licensing Authority, is required to produce a policy every three years setting out how it intends to implement the Act. Our next revision is required to be in place with effect from January 2022.

2. Proposed revisions to the Policy

- 2.1 Greater Manchester licensing leads have collaborated on this revised policy in conjunction with public health leads working as part of the GM Gambling Harm Reduction programme.
- 2.2 The revised policy is intended to provide a clear and consistent approach to what considerations will be taken into account when licensing gambling premises and the activities carried on at them.
- 2.3 A copy of the amended policy is attached at Appendix 1.

3. Consultation Strategy

- 3.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires us to consult with various groups before we determine our policy.
 - The chief officer of police for Manchester
 - One or more persons who represent the interests of gambling businesses in Manchester

- One or more persons who appear to represent the interest of persons who are likely to be affected by the implementation of the Gambling Act in Manchester

3.2 We will also consult with:

- The Responsible Authorities who are consulted on Gambling applications in Manchester (Greater Manchester Police, Planning, Environmental Health, Child Safeguarding Board, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, HM Revenue and Customs, Gambling Commission)
- All Ward Councillors of Manchester City Council
- All Strategic Area Managers
- Gamcare
- All gambling premises in Manchester
- Gambling Trade Associations
- Cityco
- Public Health

3.3 The proposed revised policy will also be made available on the Public Consultations page of the council's website.

3.4 The attached draft policy has been prepared for public consultation. Subject to approval by the Licensing Policy Committee, a 8-week public consultation would start. The final policy taking account of consultation responses will then be presented to the Licensing Policy Committee and then require the approval of full Council.

4. **Recommendation**

4.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report and agree the attached draft policy and consultation strategy outlined above.

5. **Key Policies and Considerations**

5.1 The proposals relate the Council's Gambling Policy, also referred to as its Statement of Principles, under the Gambling Act 2005.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 A copy of the draft policy is attached at Appendix 1.

6.2 The Committee is asked to consider the draft policy and provide any suggested amendments.