

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Licensing Committee – 25 October 2021

**Subject:** Review of Gambling Policy 2022-25

**Report of:** Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing

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**Summary**

This report presents the Committee with responses to the public consultation to the proposed revision of our revised Gambling Act Policy.

**Recommendations**

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

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**Wards Affected:** All

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

<b>Manchester Strategy Outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of the contribution to the strategy</b>
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	An effective licensing regime works with operators of licensed premises and other agencies to ensure, as far as it is able,

unlocking the potential of our communities	matters of equality and local issues are effectively addressed.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit and work.	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.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	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.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

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**Financial Consequences – Revenue** None

**Financial Consequences – Capital** None

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2022-25

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The draft policy was publicly consulted upon for an 8-week period concluding on 15 October.
- 1.3 This report provides the Committee with details of the responses received to the consultation. Any responses received following the publication of this report will be provided separately at the committee meeting.

## **2.0 Responses to the Consultation**

- 2.1 Two responses were received to the consultation:
- 2.2 Response 1: Manchester citizen  
*"It's a mugs game we've stopped slavery kids in factories so bin gambling it's far more productive to be a gambling free zone and something the council can do easier than making Manchester nuclear free"*
- 2.3 Response 2: Betting and Gaming Council submitted by Gosschalks solicitors  
A copy of this response is provided in Annex 1.
  - 2.3.1 In summary, the response claims that the policy adopts an "anti-gambling stance, is over prescriptive and should be simplified". Points raised include:
    - i. There should be greater recognition of the licensing authority's statutory duty to "aim to permit"
    - ii. Concerns raised in relation to research quoted in the policy and the figures used in relation to levels of gambling-related harm
    - iii. Amendments to expectations on the content of local area risk assessments
    - iv. Removal of requirements for operators to share data with licensing authorities
- 2.4 Officers are in the process of reviewing the responses with a view to any prospective changes required having regard to the issues raised.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the responses received to the consultation and provide any recommended amendments.

## **4.0 Key Policies and Considerations**

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