

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SPORT

TO:	COUNCIL		
DATE:	13 OCTOBER 2009	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING PRINCIPLES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	PAUL GITTINGS	AREA COVERED:	ENVIRONMENT.
SERVICE:	ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND SPORT	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	J S CHAMPEAU	TEL:	0118 939 0329/02239
JOB TITLE:	SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER	E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:Jean.champeau@reading.gov.uk">Jean.champeau@reading.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 Further to Minute 46 of full Council on 23 January 2007, which adopted the Council's Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles, to allow Council to consider the review of the "Statement of Gambling Principles" policy. The Statement has been the subject of consultation and review over the summer of 2009. [Copies of the following documents have been placed in the Group Rooms:](#)

- Appendix I: Statement of Gambling Principles.  
Appendix II: E-mail from Roger Etchells & Company  
Appendix III: Letter from the British Beer & Pub Association

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the reviewed "Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles", as attached at Appendix I, be approved.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires that the Council review its Gambling Policy every three years. On 1 November 2006 (Minute 3), the Licensing Committee endorsed the "Gambling Statement of Licensing Principles", for adoption by full Council as part of the authority's policy framework on 23 January 2007.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005, Reading Borough Council is responsible for issuing gambling premises licenses, permits and registering small lotteries.
- 4.2 Reading Borough Council has responsibility for:
- Licensing premises for gambling activities (and temporary use) e.g. betting shops & casinos.
  - Regulating gaming and gaming machines in clubs and miners welfare institutes.
  - Granting permits to family entertainment centres for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines.
  - Regulating gaming and gaming machines on alcohol licensed premises such as pubs.
  - Granting permits for prize gaming.
  - Registering small society lotteries.
- 4.3 Councils' are required to have a "Gaming Licensing Policy Statement", which must be reviewed every three years.

The policy must have at its core, three principles:

- to protect children and other vulnerable people from harm;
  - to prevent gambling being a source of crime or disorder; and
  - to ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
- 4.4 Licence fees for gambling activities are set centrally but are banded so that local authorities have some discretion in the level of fee payable.

## 5. THE PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Consultations regarding the review of the Council's Gambling Policy have been sent to various bodies concerned with the gambling industry. The consultation period ran from the 1 July 2009 to 20 August 2009.
- 5.2 Four responses were received within the given time period, three responses confirmed receipt and indicated that they had no comments to make. The fourth response from Roger Etchells & Company (attached as appendix II to this report) has questioned the wording in paragraph 1.4 and 1.7. In light of the comments made the "Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles" has been amended.
- 5.3 One response was received on the 21 August 2009 from the British Beer & Pub Association (attached as appendix III). We have noted the comments and will draft an information sheet regarding permits, stakes and the application process.

## 6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

6.1 The aim of the policy is to find a balance between securing the safety and amenity of our residential and business communities and responsibly maintaining and developing Readings role as a major entertainment and cultural centre.

## **7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

7.1 The proposed Gambling Policy Statement was sent to numerous trade bodies and forums, along with a request for comments. The document attached at Appendix I to this report is the proposed new policy following amendment.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The Council may attach such conditions to certain categories of licences, as they may consider reasonably necessary in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 In the event of an appeal against a decision of a sub-committee, the Council will have to bear the costs of defending their decision.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix I Statement of Gambling Principles.

Appendix II e-mail from Roger Etchells & Company

Appendix III Letter from the British Beer & Pub Association.