

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report Title	REVIEW OF STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 FOR COMMENCEMENT 31ST JANUARY 2022.			
Purpose of Report	To provide information that will allow Committee to agree a final revised Statement of Principles and to recommend that it is adopted by Council. The Statement outlines the principles Stroud District Council will apply when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005. The current Statement expires on 30 th January 2022.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RECOMMENDS to Council to adopt the Revised Statement of Principles (Appendix A) at its meeting on 21 October 2021.			
Consultation and Feedback	There has been formal consultation between 17 th May 2021 and 31 st July 2021.			
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Options	Not applicable			
Background Papers	Not applicable			
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Proposed Revised Statement of Principles for commencement 31 st January 2022 Appendix 2 – Schedule of Consultation Comments and recommended amendments to the Statement			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	Yes	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

1.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005 the Council, as the Licensing Authority, is responsible for issuing and enforcing licences, permits and notifications under the Act. These include:

- Licences for premises where gambling activities take place such as betting shops and gaming arcades.
- Permits and notifications for gaming machines in pubs and social clubs.
- Registrations for small society lotteries.

- 1.2 Stroud District has only a small number of licensed premises under the Gambling Act 2005. These are 5 Betting Shops and 2 Adult Gaming Centres. In addition, currently there are 2 Family Entertainment Centre Permits, 9 Club Gaming Machine Permits and 3 Licensed Premises Gaming Machine permits. There are 50 pubs with gaming machine registrations and 155 current small society lottery registrations. There are no licensed bingo clubs or casinos within the District. Currently the legislation does not allow for a new application to be made for a casino in Stroud District. There have been no hearings under the Gambling Act 2005 at Stroud District Council.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires that the Licensing Authority shall, before each successive period of three years, prepare a Statement of Principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act and they must publish that statement.
- 2.2 The Act also states that, in preparing the Statement, the Licensing Authority shall consult with the Police, persons representing persons carrying on gambling businesses and those affected by such businesses.
- 2.3 Section 154 of the Act provides that the function of revising the Statement may not be delegated to a Committee. This means that the decision to adopt a revised Statement must be made by full Council.
- 2.4 Stroud District Council's current Statement of Principles has effect until 30th January 2022. The current Statement has been reviewed by the Principal Licensing Officer.
- 2.5 There have been no major changes in the legislation or Gambling Commission Guidance since the last review 3 years ago. Additionally, there have not been any issues, relating to gambling in Stroud District, during this period. Therefore, the draft for consultation had no changes from the current Statement apart from updated contacts, dates and links.
- 2.6 The draft Statement of Principles for the period January 2022 to January 2025 has been out for formal consultation between 17th May 2021 and 31st July 2021.
- 2.7 Information about the consultation and the draft Statement was available on [Stroud District Council's website](#). A link to this webpage was circulated to a wide list of consultees including all Councillors. The full list of consultees is shown in Appendix B of the Statement (Appendix 1 of this report).
- 2.8 The comments received during the consultation period, and the recommended responses and amendments that have been made to the Statement, are shown in a schedule which is Appendix 2.
- 2.9 The most significant comment was from the Business Manager of the Gloucestershire Children Safeguarding Partnership. The Gambling Act 2005 states that the Statement must nominate the appropriate responsible authority for the protection of children from harm. The current Statement refers to the Gloucestershire Children Safeguarding Board but this no longer exists. It is recommended that the statement should name the Gloucestershire Children Safeguarding Partnership, made up the Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police, as the responsible authority for the objective of protecting children from harm.

2.10 The proposed final Statement for approval by Committee is Appendix 1. Changes made to reflect the consultation comments are shown in red in the Statement.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 In order that the Licensing Authority can continue to exercise its licensing functions under the Gambling Act 2005, after the current Statement of Principles expires on 30th January 2022, Committee should agree a final Statement and recommend that it is adopted by Council at its meeting on 21st October 2021.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

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4.2 Legal Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in paragraphs 2.1-2.4.

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.