

**To:** Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

**Date:** 5 September 2013

**Report of:** Head of Environmental Development

**Title of Report:** Consultation responses to the Review of the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy

## Summary and Recommendations

**To agree the draft Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for recommendation to City Executive Board and Council for adoption.**

**Report Approved by:**

**Finance: Emma Burson**

**Legal: Daniel Smith**

**Policy Framework: Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- a) **Consider any responses received to the consultation;**
- b) **For the purpose of adopting a new policy confirm that the “No Casino” resolution remains; and**
- c) **Recommend the Draft Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy to City Executive Board and Council for adoption.**

## **Introduction**

1. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 The Committee considered the Draft Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy, and matter of the “No Casino” resolution. A Summary of the Policy Changes is attached at **Appendix One**, and the Draft Revised Policy is attached at **Appendix Two**.
2. At the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the Committee resolved to:
  - 1) Agree the Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for consultation
  - 2) Authorise the Head of Environmental Development to undertake the required consultation;
  - 3) Reserve comments on the “No Casino” resolution pending further discussion and consideration of consultation responses at a subsequent meeting.

3. A Briefing Note was provided to Members following this meeting informing them that the Council would not be eligible for any casino to be sited in Oxford due to the current legislation regarding such issues. Therefore in light of the legal situation Members may wish to maintain the “No Casino” resolution and review the matter should the legislation change in the future. A copy of the Briefing Note is attached at **Appendix Three**.

## **Background**

4. The Committee is reminded that all Licensing Authorities have adopted a Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy. This Statement must promote the three licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), which are:
  - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder
  - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
  - Protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling
5. The Council is obliged to determine and publish the "Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy" and to keep it under review, and to renew the Policy at least every three years. In preparing the Statement, Licensing Authorities must follow the procedure set out in the 2005 Act, including who should be consulted. The current policy now requires renewal and therefore the Committee is requested to review the proposed new Policy.
6. The Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy sets out how the Licensing Authority intends to exercise its functions under the 2005 Act.

## **Consultation on the Draft Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy**

7. The consultation on the revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy was held from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 until 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and was made available to the following groups for consideration:
  - Members of the public;
  - Responsible Authorities (Police, Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, Planning, Environmental Protection, Child Protection, Health & Safety); and
  - Current licence holders and representatives of current licence holders.
8. One response was received to the consultation, and is attached at **Appendix Four**. The respondent comments that Oxford requires a casino. Members are referred back to the Briefing Note that deals with this matter.

## **Consultation Timetable**

9. The proposed consultation timetable is as follows:
  - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013, consultation draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy approved by Committee,

- 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013: report to Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee to consider consultation responses and approve the final Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy, in light of the consultation responses received,
- 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013: report to City Executive Board to consider the decision of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee approval of the final Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy.
- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013: Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee's and Chief Executive Board's recommendations to Full Council for adoption of the final Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy.

### **Financial Implications**

10. Any financial implications regarding this matter are covered within existing budgets.

### **Legal Implications**

11. Any legal implications regarding this matter are covered within the 2005 Act.

### **Recommendation**

12. The Committee is recommended to:
  - a) Consider any responses received to the consultation;
  - b) For the purpose of adopting a new policy confirm that the "No Casino" resolution remains;
  - c) Recommend the Draft Revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy to City Executive Board and Council for adoption.

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### **Background Papers:**

**Appendix One:** Recommended amendments and additions to the existing Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy

**Appendix Two:** Revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy

**Appendix Three:** "No Casino" Briefing Note

**Appendix Four:** Response to consultation

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