

**GAMBLING ACT 2005
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
(Report by Head of Administration)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Gambling Act 2005 introduces a new regulatory regime for gambling in this country and establishes the Gambling Commission which has replaced the former Gaming Board.
- 1.2 The Act requires a person who wishes to provide gambling to obtain three forms of licence – operating, personal and premises licences. Operating and personal licences will be issued by the Commission and premises licences by district and unitary councils acting as licensing authorities in a similar format to the powers contained in the Licensing Act 2003.

2. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 The Gambling Act requires all licensing authorities to publish a Statement of Principles on how they intend to approach their responsibilities under the Act. The authority is required to consult widely on a draft statement and the final statement must be approved by full Council.
- 2.2 The first appointed day for the statement to come into effect is 31st January 2007 and it must be published 28 days prior to that date, i.e. 3rd January 2007. The statement must be reviewed before the expiry of 3 years from its first publication but can be amended at any time during that period (subject to consultation before it is changed).
- 2.3 A draft statement of principles is attached. LACORS has produced a template for use by authorities in producing their statements and the attached draft has been modelled on that document.
- 2.4 Subject to approval by the Licensing Committee and the Cabinet, the draft will be advertised in the local press in the week commencing 11th September with a 10 weeks consultation period. Comments as a result of the consultation will be reported to meetings of the Committee and Cabinet on 27th and 30th November to formulate recommendations for submission to the Council meeting to be held on 6th December to enable the statement to be confirmed and adopted.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Gambling Act is the second major revision to the licensing legislation in as many years, following the implementation of the Licensing Act. It transfers new licensing responsibilities to the Council from the courts and updates all of the existing betting, gaming and lotteries licensing currently undertaken by the authority.


3.2 The Statement of Principles is the first stage of the process in implementing the new legislative requirements and it is

RECOMMENDED

that the attached draft Statement be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities – April 2006
LACORS model statement of principles under the Gambling Act 2005

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