

# DRAFT STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY – CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

## Section 1

### Q.1

**Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.**

The Gambling Commission will take the lead role in keeping gambling crime-free. Our draft Policy outlines how the Council will try and promote this area with regard to the actual premises. The policy states we will assess each application on its merits with specific regard to the location of the premises and the scale of the proposed activities. It states that the Council will establish a local enforcement protocol with Staffordshire Police and work closely with them to ensure high risk premises or premises within areas of considerable crime or disorder are targeted for suitable licence conditions such as door supervision. The Council will not issue any premises licences to businesses that have not already acquired the necessary personal and operators' licences from the Gambling Commission.

Do you feel the Policy does enough to promote this area?                      YES                      NO

If no, what changes do you think we should consider?

---

---

---

### Q.2

**Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way**

The Gambling Commission suggests that local authorities should not become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way. The Policy does however contain an undertaking to communicate any concerns about fairness and openness to the Gambling Commission, for example if the Council became aware that signage about game rules is absent at a particular premises.

Do you feel the Policy does enough to promote this area?                      YES                      NO

If no, what changes do you think we should consider?

---

---

---

**Q.3**

**Protecting Children and the Vulnerable from Harm**

The Council's draft Policy states how it will protect children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. In terms of children we will do this by considering attaching conditions to premises licences such as proof of age schemes, CCTV, door supervisors, supervision of entrances/machine areas, physical separation of areas, notices/signage etc. The Council also states that it will pay particular attention to those premises that provide automated betting machines and consider special conditions relating to the number of such machines and their position on the premises.

Do you feel the Policy does enough to promote this area?                      YES                      NO

If no, what changes do you think we should consider?

---

---

---

**Q.4**

The draft Policy includes information about the different categories of gaming machine which will operate under the Act in terms of the maximum stake and maximum prize. The Policy indicates that the Council will expect operators to carefully consider how their choice of machines will impact upon the protection of children and vulnerable persons licensing objective and that it may seek to impose special conditions on any premises licence where higher stake machines are offered. Particular attention will be paid to premises such as bingo halls and Licensed Family Entertainment Centres where children are permitted to play low stake category D gaming machines but are not allowed to enter the area where higher stake category C machines are placed.

Do you feel the Policy is too restrictive?                      YES                      NO

Do you feel the Policy is about right?                      YES                      NO

Do you feel the Policy is not restrictive enough?                      YES                      NO

What changes do you think we should consider?

---

---

---

**Q.5**

The draft Policy includes a special approach to location issues aimed at addressing the protection of children and vulnerable persons. The Policy states that upon receipt of any relevant representations about a premises licence application the Council will investigate issues such as:

- The proximity of the premises to schools and vulnerable adult centres

- The proximity of the premises to residential areas where there may be a high concentration of families with children
- The size of the premises and the nature of the activities taking place.

The Policy goes on to state that such information may be used to inform the decision the Council makes about whether to grant the licence, to grant the licence with special conditions or to refuse the application.

Do you feel this approach is needed? YES NO

What changes do you think we should consider?

---



---



---

**Q.6**

The draft Policy does not include a definition of a vulnerable person but does state

***‘That for regulatory assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to mental health needs, learning disability or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs’***

The Policy states that the Council will promote this objective by posting information on the Council website about the support services available for problem gamblers and will undertake checks on gambling premises to ensure any necessary information regarding responsible gambling is on display.

Do you feel this approach is too restrictive? YES NO

Do you feel this approach is about right? YES NO

Do you feel this approach is not restrictive enough? YES NO

What changes do you think we should consider?

---



---



---

**Q.7**

Are there any other categories of persons who you feel the Council should mention in the Policy who fall under the category of vulnerable?

Who else do you think we should consider? \_\_\_\_\_

---

## **SECTION 2**

Please add any other comments you wish to make on the draft Policy or the new Gambling Act

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **ABOUT YOU:**

**Where did you see a copy of the draft Policy?**

**Civic Offices** \_\_\_\_\_ **The Internet** \_\_\_\_\_

**Library** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other (please state)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you are responding as:**

**Member of the public** \_\_\_\_\_ **Community Group representative** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gambling business** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other business owner** \_\_\_\_\_

**Trade Association** \_\_\_\_\_ **Town/Parish Councillor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other (please state)** \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Please return to:**

**Julia Cleary, Licensing Section,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council,  
Civic Offices,  
Merrial Street,  
Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 2AG**

**Or by email to [licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)**