

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

22 October 2019

Report Title: LGA Handbook for Councillors – Gambling Act 2005

Submitted by: Head of Environmental Health Services

Portfolio: Finance & Efficiency

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the guidance document created by the Local Government Association for Locally Elected Members in respect of the Gambling Act 2005

Recommendations

The Committee note the contents of the document.

Reasons

The guidance document is periodically updated by the Local Government Association. The most recent update was in 2018.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) regularly produce and subsequently update guidance documents on a range of matters that are dealt with by Local Authorities.
- 1.2 The Gambling Act 2005 came into force in 2007. In 2015 the LGA produced the first version of the guidance document “*Gambling regulation: Councillor’s Handbook (England and Wales)*” (handbook). The most recent update was released in 2018. A copy is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.3 The handbook gives an overview or summary of the below areas:
- The regulatory framework for gambling;
 - The role of councillors;
 - The licensing authority statement of principles;
 - The key issues for the statement of principles;
 - Licensing fees;
 - Protecting vulnerable people;
 - Gambling related harm and problem gamblers;
 - Illegal gambling; and
 - Sector specific issues.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Gambling Act 2005 is administered and enforced by local authorities and the Gambling Commission. The legislation sets down the roles and responsibilities of local authority officers and elected Members. It also provides for the constitution of the

Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee when dealing with policy and contested applications.

3. **Options**

3.1 To note the handbook issued by the LGA.

4. **Proposal**

4.1 That Members note the handbook issued by the LGA.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

5.1 Not applicable

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 *The Council's corporate priorities are:*

- Local Services that work for Local People
- Growing our people and places
- A healthy, active and safe borough
- A town centre for all

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 The Council have a statutory duty to administer and enforce the Gambling Act 2005 in line with associated legislation, guidance and policy.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 Not applicable

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 Not applicable

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Not applicable

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

11.1 Not applicable

12. **Key Decision Information**

12.1 Not applicable

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 Not applicable

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Appendix A –2018 version of LGA Gambling Regulation: Councillor’s Handbook (England and Wales)

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Not applicable