

Agenda Item 6

Sefton Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

Date: Friday 11th March 2022

Title: Feedback and Evaluation report – Revision of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy

Report of: Kevin Coady, Senior Licensing Officer

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide feedback on the consultation that took place with regard to the revision of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 1.2 The Panel have agreed to appraise the Feedback and Evaluation Reports in accordance with the standards of public engagement and consultation and will consider:-
 - How the activity was carried out;
 - the opinions of the people taking part on how they found the process;
 - The number of people who took part and the costs of the different methods of getting them involved;
 - How successful different methods were at getting the views of people who are not normally heard, for example, children, young people and people with disabilities;
 - How the results will be fed back to the public; and
 - How will the results influence policies and service plans.

2. **Name of Issue you were Consulting On**

- 2.1 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (GA05) requires that all licensing authorities prepare and publish a statement of the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the GA05 during the three year period to which the Statement of Licensing Policy (the Policy) applies. A licensing policy statement will last for a maximum of three years, but can be reviewed and revised by an authority at any time.
- 2.2 The Policy had been kept under review since coming into force on 31 January 2019 and no alterations had been deemed necessary during that period. The Policy required revision during 2021 in order for it to take effect from 31 January 2022 (when the new three year cycle commences).

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3. The Consultation Process

3.1 Section 349 (3) of the GA05 requires that the Licensing Authority consult the following on the Policy (or any subsequent revision):

- The chief officer of police for the Authority's area;
- One or more persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the Authority's area; and,
- One or more persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the Authority's functions under this Act.

3.2 The views of the above have to be given appropriate weight when the Policy is being determined.

3.3 It is a statutory requirement to consult those persons outlined above prior to producing any revised Policy. Beyond these statutory requirements, it is for each licensing authority to decide the full extent of its consultations and whether any particular person or body is representative of the group described in the statute.

3.4 As with previous consultation exercises undertaken (with both the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy and the previous revisions of the GA05 Statement of Licensing Policy) general awareness of the consultation process, and access to the draft revised Policy, was increased by:

- i) Publishing the draft revision, a consultation response proforma and general information on the Sefton Council Website (www.sefton.gov.uk) and via Sefton Council's Online Consultation Hub (<https://yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk/>);
- ii) News items placed on the various Sefton Council social media pages;
- iii) Placing copies of the draft revision, and a list of any alterations made, in local libraries; and,
- iv) Through press releases to all local press agencies.

3.5 In addition to the general consultation/awareness raising referred to above the following specific consultations took place:

- i) Letter to Merseyside Police.
- ii) Letters to: the Gambling Commission; local fire and rescue authority; Sefton Council Planning; Sefton Council Environmental Health & Licensing Section; Sefton Council Safeguarding Children's Unit; and HM Revenue and Customs.
- iii) Letters to the following Organisations: National Casino Forum; British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA); The Bingo Association; National Association of Bookmakers; Association of British Bookmakers Ltd (ABB); Hospice Lotteries Association; The

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Lotteries Council; The British Association of Leisure Parks; Piers and Attractions Limited (BALPPA); The Racecourse Association Limited; The British Beer and Pub Association; and Gamcare.

- iv) Letter to Sefton Chamber of Commerce and the Southport BID Team.
- v) Letter to all Borough Councillors, Sefton Members of Parliament and Parish Council Clerks.

4. **Summary of the Consultation Results**

- 4.1 A full list of responses to the consultation exercise, together with the officer appraisal of those responses, is provided at Annex to this report.

5. **Feedback**

- 5.1 Those individuals who replied directly to the Licensing Unit were sent an acknowledgment letter containing details of how the Policy revision would proceed and where they could view the results.
- 5.2 Those who replied via Sefton Council's Online Consultation Hub were given the above details as part of the information contained on the Hub.

6. **Future engagement**

- 6.1 A further consultation exercise will be necessary in 3 years time when the Policy next comes up for revision.

7. **Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel are recommended to
 - a) Note the contents of the report and feedback and evaluation forms
 - b) Request that lead officers provide the Public Engagement and Consultation Team with the results and reports so that they can be uploaded onto the Consultation Hub.
 - c) Request that lead officer's report to a future Panel meeting to update the panel as to any additional changes that have occurred as a result of the consultation feedback.