

Equality Impact Assessment Part 1: Screening Form

Title of report or proposal:
Statement of Principles – Gambling act

Department:	Place
Section/SIAP unit:	Licensing, Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Date:	March 2019

This report is for decision and is therefore subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The following questions have been completed to ensure that this proposal, procedure or working practice does not discriminate against any particular social group. Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment have also been included in the main body of the report.

Equality Impact Assessment Questions

1.0 Describe in summary the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes:

Bolton Council as the 'Licensing Authority' is required to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing *Premises Licences*
- Issue *Provisional Statements*
- Regulate *members' clubs* and *miners' welfare institutes* who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue *Club Machine Permits* to *Commercial Clubs*
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at *unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres*
- Receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) for the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Issue *Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits* for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where there are more than two machines
- Register *small society lotteries* below prescribed thresholds
- Issue *Prize Gaming Permits*
- Receive and Endorse *Temporary Use Notices*
- Receive *Occasional Use Notices*
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

The Council carries out its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 with a view to promoting the three licensing objectives, namely:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Bolton Council has reviewed its Gambling Act Statement of Principles as required by the Gambling Act 2005 and has had regard to forthcoming changes announced by the Government.

Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

2.0 The main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?

The Act details the following as statutory consultees:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interest of persons carrying on gambling business in the Bolton area
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interest of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of Bolton Council 's functions under the Gambling Act 2005

The consultation was undertaken as follows:

- The consultation and proposed policy was published on the Councils website

Letters were issued to the following advising them of the consultation and directing them to the Councils website:

- The Chief Officer of Greater Manchester Police
- Local Area Forums
- Companies who have Betting, Bingo and Casino premises in the Bolton area
- Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Gamcare and Gamblers anonymous
- Area Forums

Elected Members were consulted through the appropriate internal processes.

3.0 In summary, what are the anticipated (positive or negative) impacts of the proposal?

The new Statement of Principles is not anticipated to have a significant impact as there is a strong degree of consistency between the current and proposed document, it is merely reflecting updates to statutory guidance and proposals regarding pending legislative changes to maximum stakes at betting terminals. The Statement of Principles sits within the wider context of the Local Authority's duties under the Equality Act 2010. These require us to have due regard to:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

- Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

Given the above and the associated impact detailed below, it is not anticipated that the changes will affect the ability to meet duties under the Equality Act.

Impact for the business community

For the business community, the Statement of Principles outlines the procedure for applying for a licence and sets out the responsibilities of Bolton Council as the 'Licensing Authority' and business owners undertaking licensable activities. The proposed amendments and the reasons for the proposed changes are provided as an overview in Appendix 1 of the report.

The principles remain consistent with the current Statement of Principles and recognise the wider community impacts that the Local Authority, business community and other stakeholders must be aware of when undertaking licensing activities.

The statement recognises the need for a balance between the rights of businesses and the community of which they are a part. It is recognised that proposed legislative changes regarding fixed odds betting terminals are likely to have a direct impact on some businesses, in particular betting premises, with the gambling industry suggesting that the proposed legislative changes will result in the closure of a number of betting premises, as the intention is to reduce the maximum stake from £100 to £2 per play

Impact for the wider community

The changes proposed in the revised Statement of Principles are not anticipated at this time to impact significantly on the wider community.

4. With regard to the stakeholders identified above and the diversity groups set out below:

	Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact?	Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?	Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason?	Please detail what measures or changes you will put in place to remedy any identified adverse impact
Race	It is not anticipated that the revised proposed Statement of principles will have an effect on the grounds of race.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time.	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents
Religion	It is not anticipated that the revised proposed Statement of Principles will have an effect on the grounds of faith.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time.	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents
Disability	It is not anticipated that the revised Statement of Principles will have an impact on the grounds of disability.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time.	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents

Gender (including gender reassignment)	The Statement of Principles has clear links to wider social outcomes such as health and wellbeing and crime and disorder, which may manifest themselves differently in men and women. It is not anticipated that the new statement will have a particular impact on the grounds of gender.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents
Age	The Statement of Principles clearly recognises the need to protect children from harm and is therefore relevant to the borough's young people. The new statement should not significantly alter how safeguarding is delivered under the policy.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents

Sexuality	It is not anticipated that the new Statement of principles will have an effect on the grounds of sexuality.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time.	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents
Caring status (including pregnancy & maternity)	Please see the section on age, above, for considerations around children. It is not anticipated that the new statement will have a specific impact in relation to pregnancy and maternity.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time.	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents
Marriage and civil partnership	It is not anticipated that the new statement will have an effect on the grounds of marriage and civil partnership.	Not applicable at this time.	Not applicable at this time.	Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents

Socio-economic	<p>The Statement of Principles has clear links to wider social outcomes such as health and wellbeing and crime and disorder, for which there may be particular considerations in areas of socio-economic disadvantage. It is not anticipated that the new policy will have a specific impact in relation to socio-economic issues at this time, although it is clear the intended reduction in stakes to fixed odds betting terminals is being introduced with the intention of reducing gambling related harm</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposed policy will have an adverse impact on the grounds of socio-economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>Not applicable at this time</p>	<p>Consultation on the new Statement of Principles has been undertaken with statutory consultees, including representatives from the business community and residents</p>
Other comments or issues	<p>As detailed in the report the proposed new statement of principles has been drafted in accordance with the statutory requirement to renew the Statement of principles every 3 years and has been updated to reflect changes in guidance to local authorities, proposed changes regarding maximum stakes at fixed odds betting terminals and clarification regarding primary authorities</p> <p>It is important to stress that the principles governing the Statement of Gambling policy remain consistent and continue to recognise the need to balance the rights of businesses and the communities of which they are a part. This is important for diversity groups such as children and young people, and for vulnerable people who may, for example, be experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. The principles also link to wider community outcomes such as crime and disorder, health and community wellbeing.</p>			

Please provide a list of the evidence used to inform this EIA, such as the results of consultation, service take-up, service monitoring, surveys, stakeholder comments and complaints where appropriate.

If you have undertaken consultation as part of the proposal, the consultation manager will upload it on to the corporate database.

- The existing Statement of principles
- National legislative frameworks and guidance
- Engagement with key stakeholders has been completed

5.a Are there any gaps in your evidence or conclusions that make it difficult for you to quantify the potential adverse impact?

Consultation has been undertaken with statutory consultees, as set out earlier in this EIA. This has informed the final Statement of Principles.

5.b If so, please explain how you will explore the proposal in greater depth or please explain why no further action is required at this time.

N/A

You may wish to consider undertaking secondary data analysis, further consultation or research or investigating best practice. If you are planning to undertake further consultation or research as a result of this EIA, please contact the Consultation Manager on ext. 1083.

This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Departmental Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Member(s)

Please confirm the outcome of this EIA:

No major impact identified, therefore no major changes required – proceed	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
Adjustments to remove barriers / promote equality (mitigate impact) have been identified – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact/missed opportunities for promoting equality – this requires a strong justification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop and rethink - the EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Officer

Name: E Pritchard / P Clyne

Signature: _____

Date and Contact No: 1st March 2019 01204 336580

Departmental Equalities Lead Officer

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date and Contact No: _____