**Notice of Publication of the Statement of Gambling Principles**

West Berkshire Council, along with all other licensing authorities, is required to prepare, adopt and publish a "Statement of Principles” (SoP) setting out the Council's approach to applications under the Gambling Act 2005 (hereafter known as The Act) and the information it expects applicants to provide. The policy guides the administration of licensing under The Act and helps to ensure that an appropriate balance is drawn between the interests of those wishing to provide and take part in legal gambling, and those who might be adversely affected by such activities.

Under the Act the Council is required to review its policy at least every three years or when the Council believes the policy requires updating. The [current policy](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLNorgateBarnes1%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CU2MA6GVL%5CNotice%20of%20Publication%20of%20the%20Statement%20of%20Licensing%20Policy%20Principles%20under%20S349%20fof%20the%20Gambling%20Act.docx) is due to expire at the end of January 2022.

The revised draft statement for consultation was discussed at the [Licensing Committee on the 21 June 2021](http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&MId=6201&Ver=4).

The revised document has been prepared is in accordance with guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, details of which are available on their website, [Gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/home.aspx)

The Council now needs to consult with those bodies and/or persons that may be affected. While The Council will be writing to stakeholders members of the public are also able to comment on the draft policy statement should they wish to do so.

**Our formal consultation period will run from the 05 July 2021 to the 27 September 2021**

The full policy can be found [here.](https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/licensing/consultations/)

Should you wish to comment on the statement you could do so by:

1. Sending a letter with your comments to Licensing, Public Protection Partnership, Theale Library, Church Street, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 5BZ
2. Sending an e-mail to Licensing@westberks.gov.uk

Any comments on the revised Statement of Gambling Principles will be brought to the 08 November 2021 Licensing Committee meeting for discussion prior to the report being formally presented for adoption at the 02 December 2021 Council meeting.