

West Berkshire Responses to the Statement of Gambling Principles Consultation

Background

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](#) is due to expire at the end of January 2022.

The Consultation

The Consultation started on the 05 July 2021 and ran for a twelve week period until the 27 September 2021. A public notice was placed in both the Newbury Weekly News and the Reading Chronicle and information was also placed on the West Berkshire and Public Protection Partnership websites.

Letters or email were also sent to:

- Association of British Bookmakers
- Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
- Bingo Association
- British Amusement Catering Trade Association
- British Institute of Inn Keeping
- British Beer and Pub Association
- Building Control
- Committee of Registered Club Associations
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Gambling Commission
- GAMCARE
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- HM Revenue and Customs
- Holder of existing gambling licences / permits
- National Association of Bookmakers
- Parish and Town Councils
- Public Consultation Portal
- Public Health Team
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue
- Thames Valley Police
- West Berkshire Council Environmental Health
- West Berkshire Council Planning
- West Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board
- West Berkshire Safeguarding Children Board

Responses Received

The following responses were received:

| Respondent | Comment | Response |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Greenham Parish Council | No objections to the SOGP | None needed |
| West Berkshire Council Environment Health | No comments to make. | None needed |

What Happens Next

Members of the Licensing Committee will be asked to consider the draft policy and the comments received during the consultation period at a meeting on the [08 November 2021](#).

The Licensing Committee will then recommend that the draft policy, subject to any amendments agreed at the meeting, be recommended to Council for approval at the [02 December 2021](#) meeting.

Once approved the revised policy will be published before the end of January 2022.