

Information for Unitary Councillors

Sheet Number:

2022-27/62

From:	Alan Weldon, Licensing & Fraud Manager – Regulatory & Operational
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Relevant ELT Director and sign-off date:	Sarah Dowden, Service Director Regulatory & Operational 11 th August 2023
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Date:	14 th August 2023
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To:	All Unitary Councillors
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Public Consultation – Somerset Council Gambling Policy – Statement of Principles

The Somerset Council Licensing team is currently reviewing its Gambling Policy – Statement of Principles. This must be reviewed every three years and the review includes a statutory consultation process.

Somerset Council is the licensing authority in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and is empowered to administer the following within the county: -

- premises licences including provisional statements, variations, transfers and reviews for premises including casinos, bingo, betting, adult gaming centres and family entertainment centres.
- permits for gambling activities such as gaming machines, prize gaming and unlicensed family entertainment centres.
- temporary use notices.
- occasional use notices.
- registrations such as small society lotteries.

The policy sets out how the Council will handle/ administer applications made in accordance with the Act and how it expects applicants to operate reasonably consistently with the following licensing objectives: -

- 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; and
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The consultation will run for 7 weeks from 7th August 2023 to 22nd September 2023.
The Policy can be viewed and commented upon using the link below: -

[Gambling Policy Consultation - Somerset Council - Citizen Space](#)

We would welcome your views. Please note that the document is some 66 pages long but for good reason. Our intention is that the Policy will act as clear guidance to businesses who currently operate within the county and also those that wish to set up business here. This has resulted in a detailed, robust and explanatory policy that will enable businesses, customers and the public alike to seek guidance on gambling activities and understand the legislative requirements. We have, however, prepared a detailed contents list within the document which will signpost those interested in responding to the consultation to the specific areas they consider relevant.

For more information please contact:	Name: Alan Weldon, Licensing & Fraud Manager Email: alan.weldon@somerset.gov.uk
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