

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Equality Impact Assessment

Assessment completed by Sue McDaid

Name of policy/project/service to be assessed	STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 – Public Consultation
Method of analysis undertaken and dates	Managers – desktop screening <input type="checkbox"/> Date: 7/6/24 Employee Forum <input type="checkbox"/> Date: TBC Stakeholder review <input type="checkbox"/> Date: TBC
Who does the policy or service affect?	Customers (public) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal (staff/Members) <input type="checkbox"/> External (partners/contractors/agencies) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
What are the aims/objectives/purpose or outcome or intended effects of the policy, project or service?	Preparation and public consultation on a Gambling Act policy is a requirement of the Gambling Act 2025. The purpose of a policy is to assist the Council with decision making applications to undertake gambling activities and to promote the statutory licensing objectives contained in the Act. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing gambling being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and 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.
What equality data is available relating to the use or implementation of the policy, project or service?	Some ONS survey data 2021. Gambling-related harms evidence review: summary (updated 11 January 2023).
What consultation has taken place in the development or review of the policy, project or service?	The consultation will be undertaken for 12 weeks between 24 June and 22 September 2024. There is a legal duty for the council to consult on the draft revised Gambling Act policy. As part of the consultation, we plan to liaise with residents, partners, organisations, and businesses.

Does the policy have a positive or negative impact on any of the following Protected Characteristic groups covered by the Equality Act 2010?

	Positive Yes/No	Negative Yes/No	Neutral Yes/No	Evidence & Comments
Age	Yes			<p>Research conducted by the Gambling Commission has identified that young people and students, based on their age, are at a higher risk to gambling-related harm and problem gambling.</p> <p>Measures are stated in the Policy that will help protect vulnerable and young people as the protection of children and vulnerable persons from harm is one of the licensing objectives</p>
Disability	Yes			<p>Research by NatCen in the Gambling Behaviour in Great Britain in 2015 states that problem gambling rates were higher among those who were economically inactive for reasons other than unemployment, full-time study or retirement (such as long term illness or disability, or were looking after the family home).</p> <p>A large proportion of mental health problems are considered to be a form of disability under the Equality Act 2010 if they have a long-term effect on the individual's normal day-to-day activity. It is considered that people who suffer from such disabilities may be more at risk, however, in this case it is likely to be people with poor mental health is a strong predictor of those who are at risk of problem gambling.</p> <p>Operators of licensed premises to have due regard to our Local Area Profile, which will help reduce the risk of vulnerable people developing gambling-related problems through the completion of risk assessments, licensed premises will have an improved understanding and focus on local risks and mitigating gambling-related harm. This will mean that operators will need to consider the implementation of strategies.</p> <p>Protection of vulnerable persons is one of the licensing objectives. The Gambling Act policy is likely to have a positive impact on people considered to have a disability under the Equalities Act 2010.</p>

Ethnicity			Yes	In the September 2021 Gambling Related Harms Evidence Review, it states that there is low confidence that race could be considered risk factors for gambling. This is because there were either limitations in the methodology of the research and studies reviewed or insufficient evidence. It is therefore not anticipated that the proposed Policy will have a negative effect on the grounds of race
Gender re-assignment			Yes	It is unlikely that the Statement of Principles will lead to differential impact for people based on this protected characteristic because the policy has no particular impact on gender reassignment.
Marriage/Civil partnership			Yes	The Gambling Commission research on problem gambling behaviour concluded that people with gambling problems often experience relationship breakdowns. It is unlikely that the proposal will lead to differential impact for people based on this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy & Maternity			Yes	It is unlikely that the proposal will lead to differential impact for people based on this protected characteristic because the policy has no particular impact on pregnancy or maternity.

	Positive Yes/No	Negative Yes/No	Neutral Yes/No	Evidence & Comments
Religion or belief			Yes	In the September 2021 Gambling Related Harms Evidence Review, it states there is moderate confidence that religion is not one of the risk factors for harmful gambling among children and young people. It is not anticipated that the proposed Policy will have a negative effect on the grounds of religion and belief.
Sex			Yes	Men are more likely to gamble than women, and this difference is most obvious for online gambling where 15% of men participate, compared to 4% of women. People who are classified as at-risk and problem gamblers are more typically male. The January 2023 Gambling Related Harms Evidence Review, states there is a high degree of confidence that being male was deemed a risk factor for subsequent harmful gambling among children and

				<p>young people. Operators of gambling premises much have regards to local area profile and undertake risk assessments, and therefore will have an improved understanding and focus on local risks and mitigating gambling-related harm. The revised Policy would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristic of sex (gender). The statement of principles seeks to protect both males and females from gambling related harm.</p>
Sexual orientation			Yes	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic

Equality Impact Assessment Outcome:

Low risk

Medium risk

High risk

Any other comments:

For Steering Group use only:

Comments: