

East Herts Council Report

Licensing Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 June 2025

Report by: Jonathan Geall – Head of Housing and Health

Report title: Consideration of the revised draft Statement of Gambling Principles 2025-28

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary – The Gambling Act 2005 requires each local authority to adopt and publish a Statement of Gambling Principles at least every three years. The purpose of the Policy is to set out the principles the local authority will apply when carrying out its licensing functions under the Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Licensing Committee:

- (a) That, prior to public consultation, members review and comment on the draft Statement of Gambling Principles for consideration of the Executive Member for Planning & Growth**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 That the draft document is considered by members of the Licensing Committee.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Regulation of non-remote gambling activities such as betting, prize gaming (including bingo and poker), provision of gaming machines and promotion of lotteries under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) is a regulatory regime under which the council has statutory responsibilities.

- 2.2 The Act requires licensing authorities (district councils or unitary authorities) to publish a written policy, setting out how they intend to exercise the licensing and enforcement powers conveyed to them, the principles that they will follow, and their expectations of licensees. The Policy must be periodically reviewed, so as to ensure that they reflect the current legislation and are relevant to the issues arising in the authority's area.
- 2.3 Historically and currently East Herts District has low numbers of licences and authorisations issued under the Act and low numbers of complaints.
- 2.4 To give the context for East Herts, the following table sets out the current licences held in comparison with three years ago.

Type of Licence	Issued in 2018	Issued in 2021	Issued in 2025
Adult Gaming Centre	0	0	0
Betting Shop	15	15	13
Bingo	0	0	0
Club Gaming Permit	0	0	2
Club Machine Permit	11	9	6
Gaming Machines (up to 2 machines)	113	119	124
Gaming Machines (3 or more machines)	15	11	11
Small Society Lotteries	75	47	75
Track Betting	0	0	0
Totals	229	201	231

- 2.5 Once the draft statement of principles has been before Executive on 08 July 2025 a final draft will be approved for consultation. A four-week consultation will then commence.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 As the Licensing Authority, East Herts Council is required to have a Statement of Gambling Principles and revise this at least

every three years.

- 3.2 The Statement is an important document which sets out the principles the council will apply when carrying out its licensing function.
- 3.3 Since the last statement was adopted there have been no substantive changes to either the law or guidance in relation to the areas of Gambling which the authority is responsible for. As a result, there are no substantive changes proposed to the existing statement.
- 3.4 The existing Statement of Gambling Principles can be found here: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/licences-and-registration/gambling-policy-guidance-and-fees>
- 3.5 The proposed revision of the Statement of Gambling Principles is attached at **Appendix A**.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 To make suggestions to the Executive Member for Planning & Growth for amendments to the draft document before consultation commences.
- 4.2 Endorse the draft version of the document to the Executive Member for Planning & Growth for consultation.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 None identified by author.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

Proper scrutiny of the work of the Licensing & Enforcement team helps to ensure that policies and procedures promote community safety.

Data Protection

None

Equalities

None

Environmental Sustainability

None

Financial

None as any work either carried out or proposed will be possible within existing budgets.

Health and Safety

Some parts of the regulatory regimes covered in this report contribute to health & safety by ensuring standards are maintained.

Human Resources

None

Human Rights

None

Legal

None

Specific Wards

None

7.0 Background papers, appendices, and other relevant material

7.1 Appendix A – Draft Statement of Gambling Principles 2025-28

Contact Member

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for Planning & Growth

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