

Please note: members agreed a recent policy review (Licensing Committee 19/11/2015). This is was an interim measure to comply with the requirement to review the policy by the end of Jan 2016. In the meantime, officers have been working on a comprehensive review to incorporate wider social responsibility changes that come into force later this year.

In 2015 the Gambling Commission revised the Guidance for Local Authorities and their Licensing Conditions and Code of Practice to increase social responsibility for operators and give greater control and protection to customers. The key changes were around social responsibility, gambling monitoring tools and customer self exclusion, and included making test purchasing mandatory for larger operators, providing information to players, improved customer interaction, self exclusion and training.

Key points of interest for Local authorities where around social responsibility; improving visibility and supervision of customers including layout access to gambling by children and young persons and the introduction of a requirement for operators to carry out a local risk assessment, assessing the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each premises, and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks.

When the Gambling Act 2005 was introduced local authorities tended to adopt a national template for their Gambling Policy and the Commission are keen for local authorities to move away from the national template and towards a document that is more focused on local risks and issues and incorporate the changes introduced in the revised guidance. The requirement for operators to undertake local risk assessment should be informed by the Gambling Policy and a local area profile.

The revised Policy is a more comprehensive and detailed document and has been updated to include:

- A section on Local Risk Assessment and Local Area profile (Part C para 13).
- Details for each type of premises licence issued including a list of good practice control measures/conditions to promote licensing objectives (Part C).
- Updated enforcement section to reflect work done by the licensing team, including test purchasing.

In Part C paragraph 13 the policy sets out matters to consider in carrying out a local risk assessment and also refers to the Local Area Profile (LAP). The LAP is currently being developed in conjunction with the Public Health Intelligence team and is intended to be completed by end of March 2016. The document will be accessed via the Council's website and a link provided in the Policy. It will contain a series of maps and charts detailing at risk groups and risk factors on a ward by ward basis. A prototype is included for your information (Appendix 3).

