

Licensing Committee

16:30 to 16:55

Thursday, 04 December 2025

Present: Councillors Huntley (Chair), Kidman (Vice-Chair), Calvert, Carrington, Lawes, Maguire, Stutely, Worley-Smith and Young

Apologies: Councillor Ackroyd, Catt and Padda

In attendance Councillor Giles, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

Nick Austin, Executive Director of Climate and Environment

Vicki Hopps, Regulatory Services Manager

David Lowens, nplaw

1. Declarations of interest

- 1.1 Councillor Calvert declared an other registerable interest as the community centre that he was Chair of had a premises licence.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting, held on 6 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Review and Amendment of the Gambling Statement of Principles

- 3.1 The Regulatory Services Manager presented the report. The Council was required to update its Gambling Statement of Principles every three years. The Statement of Principles had last been adopted in July 2023 so would be required to be updated by July 2026. The report detailed minor changes as detailed in the table within Appendix A to the report. The policy explained how the Council applied the Gambling Act 2005 and how operators could obtain licences to regulate gambling within the city. A public consultation would take place for eight weeks before the Policy was adopted by Full Council.

- 3.2 A member queried what assessment was done when there were several premises in close proximity to one another. In response the Regulatory Services Manager said that cumulative impact was something that could be explored through the consultation on the policy.

- 3.3 In response to a further question from members the Regulatory Services Manager said that details on staff training could be made more explicit within the policy through the consultation process, which could include details on how staff could whistleblow if they had concerns.
- 3.4 A member commented that while the policy acknowledged the harm of gambling venues in areas of high deprivation it did not consider that individuals may travel to another area to gamble. Members considered that there was a risk of anti-social behaviour and crime in the pathways between premises.
- 3.5 Members asked whether the Local Area Profile included within the policy would be updated. In response the Regulatory Services Manager and Executive Director of Climate and Environment said that this could be updated separately to the policy. The Council had recently received data on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) that were based on Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and this could inform the new Local Area Profile.
- 3.6 In response to questions from members officers confirmed that no analysis had been done on the amount of time required for enforcement of premises. Historically there had been very few complaints that have required investigation. Crime figures in relation to individual premises was not available from the Police. Additional information on crime figures could be added to the policy.
- 3.7 Officers assured members that annual reports on enforcement activity would be brought to the Licensing and Regulatory Committees from the 2026-2027 Civic Year.
- 3.8 A member queried whether premises were required to record and supply information about exclusions, refusals and welfare interventions. The Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that premises were required to maintain a register of those that had self-excluded and those that had been refused and would be required to supply this to the Council on request.
- 3.9 **RESOLVED** to:
- 1) Recommend to Cabinet the proposed amendments to the draft Norwich City Council Statement of Principles to Cabinet.
 - 2) Recommend that Cabinet agree to commence a public consultation on the proposed draft policy and fees for an 8-week period from 19 January 2026 to 15 March 2026 before returning for formal approval by Council
 - 3) Ask officers to consider the following during the consultation process
 - a. Ensure that the Local Area Profile is updated.
 - b. Explore the staff training requirements that these were made more explicit to include information on whistleblowing and welfare interventions.
 - c. Seek data from partners on the harm related to gambling from partner organisations.

- d. Consider whether risk assessments should include information on the proximity of premises to debt advice services, homelessness services, anti-social behaviour and other crime indicators. This should include consideration of corridors between premises.

CHAIR