

**REGENERATION AND CULTURE
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

DIVISION	COMMUNITY PROTECTION & WELLBEING
SERVICE GROUP	LICENSING
SERVICE AREA OR POLICY TO BE ASSESSED	STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY
LEAD OFFICER	RACHEL HALL, TEAM MANAGER - 2526454
OFFICER COMPLETING THE ASSESSMENT	RACHEL HALL, TEAM MANAGER - 2526319
NAME OF OTHER STAFF INVOLVED IN ASSESSMENT	MIKE BROSTER, HEAD OF SERVICE - 2526408
DATE	NOVEMBER 2006

ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS FORM PLEASE SEND A COPY TO DAXA PATEL, STRATEGIC EQUALITY, A11



<p>SCOPE THE AREA /POLICY TO BE COVERED</p> <p>CONSIDER-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is the scope of the assessment -Is it all aspects of the policy or limited areas?, state reasons for inclusions and exclusion -Does it link to other services or other EIA?, if so ensure there is adequate cross working <p>The Gambling Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”) will take effect in 2007. Responsibility for issuing premises licences and carrying out some enforcement will fall to the local authority (“the Licensing Authority”). It is a requirement of the 2005 Act that the Licensing Authority has a published Gambling Policy, which must have been subject to public consultation. Much of the content is prescribed or restricted by the Act.</p> <p>External agencies involved in the process prescribed by the 2005 Act are excluded from this Assessment. These include the Police and existing providers of gambling facilities in Leicester. However, the Gambling Policy will have links to Child Protection and Independent Review - Social Care and Health</p>
<p>IDENTIFY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY /SERVICE</p> <p>What do we want to achieve through this policy /service function?</p> <p>The Licensing Objectives are set out in the 2005 Act as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ 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 ✧ Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

What needs is the policy /service designed to meet /does it affect the public directly or indirectly?

The policy is designed to meet the Licensing Objectives as set out above. The public will be affected both directly and indirectly. Potential stakeholders have been consulted on the policy using the following methods:

- ✓ Residents / users of gambling premises – focus groups selected from the People's Panel
- ✓ Existing providers of gambling facilities – postal questionnaire:
 - Casino operators
 - Bingo hall operators
 - Bookmakers
- ✓ Specific external bodies as per Gambling Commission advice – postal questionnaire
- ✓ Existing holder of premises licences / club premises certificates under the Licensing Act 2003 (current / future holders of permits for amusements with prizes, ie, fruit machines) - letter advising consultation on website
- ✓ Police – personal interview
- ✓ General – questionnaire available on the City Council website or on request to Licensing section
- ✓ Other council departments / sections – internal meetings and correspondence

Much of the consultation was carried out by consultants (Social and Market Strategic Research) on behalf of the City Council.

Does the policy /service relate to other functions and policies?- i.e. partnership ,does it affect other services

The policy relates to the following services:

- ◆ Local Safeguarding Children Board – responsible authority under the 2005 Act so will be notified of every premises licence application

Other integrating strategies are:

- ◆ Safer Leicester Partnership
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Building Control

Are the aims consistent with the Corporate Plans e.g. Corporate Equality plan, Community plan, Corporate plan?

The Gambling Policy is consistent with the Corporate Plan 2006 - as follows:

- ✧ *Strategic objective to improve our environment to make local neighbourhoods and the city centre places for people to be proud of.*
- ✧ *Key priorities to*
 - *Make our city's developments sustainable so that we do not close down choices for our children and grandchildren (B4);*
 - *Build on Leicester's history of including people from all backgrounds in a cohesive community free to pursue peace and prosperity (C2);*
 - *Develop a safe, clean and creative city with wider access to culture and recreation (F1, F3, F4);*
 - *Promote prosperity and new jobs, while safeguarding people's health and development interests (H2, H4).*

The Policy supports the Community Plan aims to

- ✧ ensure the provision and use of quality cultural and leisure services, events and activities which reflect the rich diversity of the city's communities and people;
- ✧ make Leicester a safe and attractive city in which to live, work, study and socialise by reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime.

The Policy supports the Safer Leicester Partnership objectives to

- ✧ reduce crime in the city centre;
- ✧ reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour across the city.

How does this Policy impact on disadvantaged groups i.e. Race, Gender, Disabled

The policy applies to all potential or existing providers of gambling facilities across Leicester city.

CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT ON EQUALITY IMPLICATION

What are the policy /service implications race, gender, disability, age, sexuality, religion, social exclusion, community cohesion?

The questionnaire which was sent to existing providers of gambling facilities and specific external bodies was the same as the questionnaire made available on the website. The questions were the same or similar to those asked at the focus groups and during the interview with the police. All included the following question: "Do you think that the draft policy has any adverse implications for disadvantaged groups? (For example, on the grounds of disability, race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, social exclusion)".

There were no adverse implications identified

-Are there any access to service issues? Think about physical access, access to information, language, etc
-Are there any other barriers?

The 2005 Act requires public consultation on the Gambling Policy. Leicester City Council appointed a firm of consultants to undertake this work on our behalf. The consultation process involved postal surveys, a face-to-face interview with the police and focus groups. The questionnaire was also made available on the website. As stated above, it included a question about the implications of the proposed Policy for disadvantaged groups. The findings of the consultation exercise are also set out above.

Notwithstanding the above, a thought shower amongst officers identified the following areas for consideration:

- ✧ the Gambling Policy and accompanying background documents should be available in accessible formats – e.g., Braille, different languages, internet
- ✧ support should be given to applicants for, or holders of, licences and permits who are socially excluded (e.g., have English as a second language, have learning disabilities)
- ✧ the protection of children and vulnerable people from harm (this is one of the Licensing Objectives set by the government)

Where do you think improvements can be made?

- ✧ *Make the Licensing Policy and accompanying background documents available on the internet, and in other formats upon request – e.g., Braille, different languages*
- ✧ *Include multi language sections on all leaflets and in internet site saying from where information can be found.*
- ✧ *Offer support to licence applicants, licence holders and potential objectors, who are socially excluded*

Are we already addressing any of the issues identified e.g. is it in your improvement plan?

The Gambling Policy will be presented to full Council on 30 November 2006. Any issues that arise within the relevant time leading up to the submission of the Policy, including those mentioned above, will be taken into consideration. Once full Council approval has been granted the Policy may only be amended following further public consultation.

Assess any service information, consider monitoring data , consultation data, complaints, satisfaction data

Monitoring data

Do you have data on who uses your services/policy, complaints, and satisfaction? Outline what you monitor and the categories you use?
Assess how you have used data in service planning

This is a new area of work and a new Policy, therefore there is no historical data. The application forms will be prepared by the government and specific monitoring information such as gender, ethnic background, disability, etc may not be included. We will be issuing application packs and can include a separate sheet asking for monitoring information. (Completion of this will be optional). If representations are received then the Licensing Authority will usually have to hold a hearing to determine the application. As a result there will be written justification of every decision made on applications.

We will monitor issues such as complaints and customer satisfaction.

Consultation

Consider who your customers (direct and indirect) and stakeholders are, what consultation have you undertaken, out line all consultation exercises carried out (including any with hard to reach groups)

The consultation process carried out by the consultants involved:

- ✧ a postal survey of xxx residents, selected at random from the People's Panel
- ✧ 5 focus groups of 10-15 residents (total 50-75) selected from the People's Panel
- ✧ face to face interview with a representatives of the Police
- ✧ a postal survey of all existing providers of gambling facilities in Leicester (approx 100)
- ✧ a postal survey of around 20 other interested parties – Gamcare; trade associations, etc
- ✧ an online survey for any other interested persons (a letter was sent to all existing holders of premises licences / club certificate holders under the Licensing Act 2003 advising them of the consultation and directing them to the website)

If there is no Consultation data then-

-Need to consult

-Draw up an Action Plan of actions that you will need to undertake to collect, monitoring & consultation data

This is a new area of work; consultation on new Policy has been undertaken as set out above. The policy will be valid for three years, after which time we will be required to repeat the consultation process and prepare a new policy for the following three years. We will also have to repeat the consultation process if we consider that any revisions are necessary during the life of the policy.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA AND EVIDENCE

What does the monitoring and consultation information tell you, are there any trends that can be identified? Is there any positive or negative impact? Can these be justified?

The conclusions of the consultation process have been used to influence the content of the Licensing Policy and inform the decision making process. As this is a completely new area of work it has not been possible to identify trends.

There are not considered to be any adverse impacts at this stage. However, the policy will be monitored for adverse impacts once it is operational, on an annual basis.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

What are the main conclusions from your assessment?

We need to prepare a system for monitoring applications and their outcomes, as well as issues such as complaints and customer satisfaction. Consultation on the policy will be repeated if any revisions are necessary during the life of the policy (three years). Consultation on the subsequent three-year policy will be necessary before the current policy expires.

EQUALITY ISSUES	ACTION	PROGRESS & PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMESCALES	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES NEEDED	ANY RISKS
DISABILITY, RACE	Make the Licensing Policy and accompanying background documents available on the internet, and in other formats upon request – e.g., Braille or audio tape, different languages	Availability of Policy on internet and in other formats		Licensing Team Manager	Translators & printing / reproduction	Insufficient time
		Availability of background documents on internet and in other formats		Licensing Team Manager	Translators & printing / reproduction	Insufficient time
RACE	Include multi language sections on all leaflets and on internet site saying from where information can be found.	Inclusion of multi language sections on leaflets and internet site		Licensing Team Manager	Translators & printing	
SOCIAL EXCLUSION	Offer support to licence applicants, licence holders and potential objectors, who are socially excluded	Number of requests for assistance.	Ongoing	Licensing Team Manager	Unknown demand	How to identify the need for support at an appropriate stage
		Number of times assistance given.	Ongoing	Licensing Team Manager		
RACE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION						
DISABILITY, AGE, GENDER, SOCIAL	Work towards ensuring safety of children and vulnerable people in gambling premises	Monitoring complaints and information.	Ongoing	Licensing Team Manager		
		Action on complaints	Ongoing	Licensing Team		

EXCLUSION		and information.		Manager		
ALL DISADVANTAGED GROUPS						
DISABILITY						
GENERAL	Inclusion of sheet in application packs requesting specific monitoring information	Inclusion of sheet in packs		Licensing Team Manager	Printing	Optional return may bias results
GENERAL	Ensure each case is dealt with fairly and on its own merits	Monitoring of complaints Monitoring of customer satisfaction	Ongoing Ongoing	Licensing Team Manager Licensing Team Manager		