

GAMBLING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2025	
Executive Summary	This report aims to present the revised Gambling Statement of Principles 2025 and recommend its publication. The updated document reflects the latest legislative requirements and best practices, ensuring that our policies are comprehensive and aligned with the objectives of the Gambling Act 2005
Options considered	Do nothing. The Council would be in breach of its obligations to publish a Gambling Statement of Principles every 3 years.
Consultation(s)	Full public consultation took place between 13 March to 17 April 2025. There were no responses which suggested changes to the policy. A summary of the updates is appended.
Recommendations	That the Licensing Committee (Premises & Gambling): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommends that Full Council approves the publication of the Gambling Statement of Principles 2025. 2. That the new statement is published, once approved.
Reasons for recommendations	To ensure that all licensed premises and activities comply with the updated standards and requirements. To ensure unlicensed gambling activity can be robustly enforced upon.
Background papers	Gambling Act 2005 Gambling Commission Guidance HM Government Consultation Principles (2018) Data Protection Act 2018 Social Responsibility Code (January 2018) Public Health England and Norfolk County Council Public Health Team Previous Gambling Policy Statements

Wards affected	All
Cabinet member(s)	Councillor Callum Ringer
Contact Officer	Elisa Pendered, Environmental and Leisure Business Support Manager

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	Developing our communities: engaged and supported individuals and communities.
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	
Council Policies & Strategies	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and Handbook (2021)

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No
Has the public interest test been applied	Yes. Public consultation required.
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	

1. Purpose of the report

This report aims to present the revised **Gambling Statement of Principles 2025** and recommend its publication. The updated document reflects the latest legislative requirements and best practices, ensuring that our policies are comprehensive and aligned with the objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

2. Introduction & Background

The Gambling Act 2005 requires licensing authorities to publish a statement of principles every three years, outlining how they will exercise their functions under the Act. The current statement has been reviewed and updated to incorporate changes in legislation, guidance from the Gambling Commission, and feedback from stakeholders.

The changes required at this review are minor in nature. North Norfolk has no casinos, which would be considered high risk gambling venues, for money laundering. There are no licensed racetracks in North Norfolk.

The Council's first gambling policy was adopted on 1st November 2006 and subsequent reviews built on this foundation up to and including the current statement.

3. Proposals and Options

Licensing Objectives:

- 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.

• Consultation Process:

- Extensive consultation was conducted with stakeholders, including the Chief Officer of Police, representatives of gambling businesses, and persons affected by the authority's functions under the Act.
- Feedback from the consultation has been incorporated into the final document.

• Responsible Authorities and Interested Parties:

- The document outlines the principles for designating responsible authorities and determining interested parties.
- It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.

• Exchange of Information:

- The principles for exchanging information between the licensing authority, the Gambling Commission, and other relevant bodies are detailed.
- Compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 is ensured.

• Enforcement:

- The enforcement principles are guided by proportionality, accountability, consistency, transparency, and targeting.
- The document outlines the inspection and compliance roles of the licensing authority.

• Premises Licences:

- Detailed guidelines for considering applications for premises licences, including the definition of premises, location considerations, and conditions that may be attached to licences.

- Specific provisions for different types of premises, such as casinos, adult gaming centres, betting shops, tracks, bingo premises, and family entertainment centres.
- **Permits and Temporary Use Notices:**
 - Guidelines for issuing various permits, including unlicensed family entertainment centre gaming machine permits, licensed premises gaming machine permits, prize gaming permits, club gaming and club machine permits, temporary use notices, and occasional use notices.
 - The document outlines the application process and conditions for each type of permit.
- **Small Society Lotteries:**
 - The principles for registering and administering small society lotteries are detailed.
 - The document outlines the criteria for determining whether a society is non-commercial and the requirements for promoters.
- **Committee and Officer Delegation:**
 - The document includes the scheme of delegation for licensing decisions and functions.
 - It outlines the roles of the Licensing Committee, Sub-Committee, and licensing officers.

4. Corporate Priorities

Engaged and supported communities. Communities were consulted. The updated policy provides clarity on the council's stance on gambling within the district and the agencies involved in gambling safety.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

Comments from the S151 Officer:

There are no direct financial implications associated with the publication of the revised Gambling Statement of Principles 2025.

6. Legal Implications

Comments from the Monitoring Officer

The report and recommendations seek to enhance the regulation of gambling activities, aiming to meet legislative requirements and best practice in our processes.

7. Risks

The document reflects the latest guidance from the Gambling Commission and aligns with national standards.

8. Net ZeroTarget

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The principles promote transparency and accountability in the licensing process, ensuring that decisions are made fairly and consistently.

10. Community Safety issues

Enhanced Public Safety:

The updated principles ensure that gambling activities are conducted in a manner that protects the public from crime, disorder, and exploitation.

The document provides a comprehensive framework for licensing, enforcement, and compliance, supporting the effective regulation of gambling activities in our district.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The adoption of the **Gambling Statement of Principles 2025** represents a significant step forward in enhancing the regulation of gambling activities in our district. It is recommended that the Licensing Committee (Premises & Gambling) recommends that Full Council approves the publication of this updated document to ensure that our policies remain current, comprehensive, and aligned with best practices.

Appendix A

Version and Timing

Feature	2021 Version	2025 Draft Version
Effective Date	31 January 2022	14 January 2025 (Draft)
Review Cycle	Every 3 years	Every 3 years
Latest Revision Date	November 2021	January 2025
Status	2022 Adopted by Council	Draft

Structural Differences

Section	2021 Version	2025 Draft Version
Part Structure	Parts A–D, 29 sections + annexes	Same structure, some section titles slightly reworded
Wording	Formal and direct	Slightly expanded with more explanatory notes and examples

Substantive Content Differences

Public Health and Gambling

- **2021:** Public health is mentioned briefly (Section 15), focusing on collaborative approaches with Norfolk County Council.
- **2025:** Expands this section with more direct emphasis on gambling-related harm as a public health issue, reflecting a stronger alignment with national policy and strategy updates.

Local Area Profiling

- **2021:** States no specific risk areas identified but outlines the importance of local profiling.
- **2025:** Adds more language around collaboration and public accessibility of this profiling data if/when developed.

Language and Guidance Updates

- The **2025 version** includes updated references to:
 - New or updated Gambling Commission links/guidance.
 - Enhanced examples under conditions for Adult Gaming Centres and Family Entertainment Centres.
 - Greater focus on door supervisors, machine location, and risk mitigation strategies.

Policy Enhancements in 2025 Draft

- New definitions and examples for what constitutes “vulnerable persons.”
 - Expanded explanation of risk-based inspections and enforcement (aligning with updated regulatory expectations).
 - More consistent integration of **data protection (GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018)** language in the sections dealing with information exchange.
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The 2025 version also contains administrative and formatting differences.